FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PRESIDENT ALFONSIN VISITS BEAGLE CHANNEL ZONE

PY071310 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2227 GMT 5 May 84

[Excerpts] Ushuaia, 5 May (TELAM) -- President Raul Alfonsin and his retinue this afternoon made a 1-and-1/2-hour visit to the zone of dispute with Chile, the Beagle Channel, aboard the Argentine Navy fast attack craft Indomita and Intrepida. Alfonsin arrived today at 1310 in Ushuaia to begin a 30-hour visit to Tierra del Fuego, where he stated on his arrival that our greatest desire is to solve our dispute with Chile as soon as possible.

The Argentine president was welcomed by Raul Armando Trejo Noel, governor of the Argentine Territory of Tierra del Fuego and South Atlantic Islands, who was accompanied by ministers of his local government, legislators, and naval officers.

The presidential delegation was made up of Defense Minister Raul Borras, Navy Chief of Staff Rear Admiral Ramon Arosa, spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez, Navy Deputy Chief of Staff Rear Admiral Raul Alberto Marino, and other officials.

The fast attack craft Indomita and Intrepida of the Argentine Navy left the local naval station at 1625, taking President Alfonsin and his delegation for a cruise through the Beagle Channel as far as the zone called Lapataia, and returned at 1750.

Talks to Journalists

PY071913 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2133 GMT 6 May 84

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 6 May (TELAM) -- President Raul Alfonsin has warned that the national unity which the government wants to promote should not be restricted to political dialogue, but should be expressed through actual participation in all aspects of the nation's problems. He also predicted that a politically, economically, and socially important solution will be reached over the Beagle conflict.

Alfonsin arrived at 1532 in the military sector of the Metropolitan Airport, returning from the city of Rio Grande where he ended a stay of nearly 24 hours in the Territory of Tierra del Fuego, Antarctica, and South Atlantic Islands where, in his capacity as chief of the Armed Forces, he inspected naval installations and talked with authorities and political, labor, and business representatives of the region.

Answering journalists' questions, Alfonsin talked about the political dialogue of which, he said, important results are expected. He added that the government's call to national unity is not solely aimed at dialogue.

Regarding the Beagle conflict, Alfonsin said that we are determined to seek a solution based on our sovereignty and the interests of both countries. He then stressed that we are going to reach a solution that is important not only in the political area, but also in the economic and social areas as part of the process of Latin American integration.

Alfonsin then stated his conviction that there can be an integration with Chile, giving the latter country an outlet to the Atlantic and Argentina an outlet to the Pacific.

SIGNING OF IMF LETTER OF INTENT MAY BE POSTPONED

WA081055 Rome IPS in English 4 May 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, May 4 (IPS) -- The signing of a letter of intent by the Argentine Government and the International Monetary Fund may be postponed, Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli announced here today after a cabinet meeting. Argentina was expected to have a draft letter of intent ready for study by an IMF mission which will visit Buenos Aires this weekend.

A government spokesperson said that Argentina will be ready to renegotiate the foreign debt of about $44 billion in the second half of this year. A letter of intent to the IMF is usually required before a country can start renegotiating payments on foreign debts, particularly with the Club of Paris, foreign banks, and governments.

Troccoli described Argentina's foreign debt as "the most severe restriction on the national economy." The minister charged that "beyond the weight of the monetary interests" involved in the foreign debt are "other interests which are trying to draw bigger benefits, which are a heavy burden for a country suffering an intense crisis."

The content of the draft letter is a matter of speculation in the Argentine press and among international analysts linked to Argentina's creditor banks. President Raul Alfonsin and the Peronists, the main opposition party, are adamant that they will not stand for the IMF's "recessive recipes." And the violent protests which erupted recently in the Dominican Republic in response to austerity measures demanded by the IMF could only have served to strengthen the Argentines' resistance to IMF measures.

But the Argentine Government must find a way to make economic program adjustments -- to reactivate production after seven years of stagnation under military rule and meet trade union demands for salary protection -- while finding a way to pay the foreign debts. The contradictions between these two crucial goals are vast, leading Alfonsin to describe Argentina, in his message to Congress on May 1, as "on the brink of the abyss."

Various Argentine officials, particularly Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, have travelled to the United States and Europe to argue that foreign debts must be considered a political rather than a technical problem. The Third World debt is the joint responsibility of debtors and creditors, and is part of a reordering of North-South trade, they maintain. Caputo is now in Spain to promote this view and lay the groundwork for an upcoming visit there by Alfonsin.

The Argentine authorities' efforts have met with varied responses. West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said in mid-April in Buenos Aires that certain European nations might intervene in Argentina's favor on the debt question if the negotiations with the IMF go well. And Mario Pedino, an Italian Christian Democrat speaking for the European Parliamentary delegation here, said some of these nations might act as an intermediary between the IMF and Argentina in the upcoming talks.

Meanwhile, the Argentine press has quoted an assistant U.S. Treasury secretary as saying that Washington helped organize the recent $500 million bailout package for Buenos Aires to aid Alfonsin's government, not U.S. creditor banks. David Mulford also said that the package did not resolve Argentina's problems, but expressed confidence that "the goal will be reached so long as the Buenos Aires government works to develop the stable economic climate in which lasting democratic institutions are built." But the multilateral accord reached March 30 to help Argentina pay interest, and any other refinancing arrangement, will depend on the IMF's decision.

The IMF's preponderant role is a source of concern to both Alfonsin's administration and the opposition, since the IMF is blamed for depressing the living standard in many debtor countries. "The Latin American countries' foreign debt cannot be resolved with the traditional adjustments in international payments," according to Aldo Ferrer, president of the Bank of Buenos Aires Province, one of the main state-run banks. The debt has reached unprecedented proportions compared to the other economic variables, he noted, with the total Latin American foreign debt now equal to 40 percent of the continent's gross domestic product (GDP).

Every percentage point that interest rates increase costs Latin America about $1 billion, Ferrer said. In Argentina, that represents two million tons of wheat exports or 60 percent of annual beef exports, he noted.

The question plaguing the Alfonsin administration is how to distribute the economic and political burden of the necessary adjustments.

Most Argentine analysts fear that the IMF's formula cannot be applied here without endangering the fledgling democratic government. One of the Argentine Government's main arguments in the IMF debate is that the IMF's standard "recessive recipe" was already applied here throughout the former military government (1976-83), with catastrophic results for domestic development. Officials note that over the last eight years the GDP plummeted, firms accounting for 38 percent of production went bankrupt, and all living standard indicators fell.

Of the IMF's three common target areas -- salary and production restrictions, exchange and tariff liberalization, and reduction of the budget deficit -- the Argentines' agreement appears most likely on the latter.

Administration officials say they can cut military spending from 5.97 to 3.94 percent of the GDP, increase tax collection by preventing evasion, now estimated at more than 50 percent, and boost production by five percent. They also promise to set "realistic" prices for public services, allow real salary increases of no more than six percent this year, and cut inflation to half of last year's whopping 400 percent.

Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun announced that the letter of intent will be presented for congressional debate, noting that "the sooner that document is signed" the better, "since we need to put the external sector in order and this letter is fundamental to that."

The IMF issue has also given the opposition fuel against the ruling Radical Party, with some critics speculating that the administration is not keeping the public abreast of its dealings with the international loan body. Eduardo Setti, a Peronist economist, charges that the government has secretly accepted the IMF's policy. According to Setti, presidential adviser Raul Prebisch and IMF Director Jacques de Larosiere have already signed a pact.

CZECHOSLOVAK TRADE DELEGATION VISITS SAN JUAN

PY072106 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1326 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] San Juan, 7 May (DYN) -- A Czechoslovak commercial delegation has arrived in this provincial capital in order to study with local authorities the implementation of trade between the San Juan market and the European nation.

The visitors and their hosts considered fundamental the possibility of acquiring from Czechoslovakia the technical infrastructure for the development of some hydroelectric projects in the province and the supply of electric units for the service of urban passenger transportation. For its part, Czechoslovakia would import wines and grapes to sell in Czechoslovakia and neighboring countries.

The domestic airlines plane that brought the Czechoslovak delegation to San Juan departed for the capital afterwards carrying the Soviet Ambassador to Argentina Konstantin Sharkov. The Soviet diplomat stayed 4 days in San Juan and met with Governor Leopoldo Bravo, former Argentine ambassador to Moscow, with whom the Soviet ambassador analyzed the increase in bilateral trade and Soviet assistance for the development of priority areas in the economy of San Juan.

RAILROAD WORKERS CALL NATIONWIDE STRIKE

WA030928 Rome IPS in English 3 May 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, May 3 (IPS) -- Argentine railroad workers' unions have called a nationwide strike for May 9, the first widespread labor protest against the five-month-old government of President Raul Alfonsin.

The four rail workers' unions unanimously agreed on the measure after six partial strikes last month failed to gain government action on their demands for salary increases and improved working conditions.

The strike call, announced yesterday, was approved in meetings of local union members, without consultation of the top union directors.

Although the direct demands are on wages and working conditions, the strike is seen as related to Alfonsin's attempts to restructure the leadership in all Argentine trade unions.

The administration has named a Labor Ministry official, Alberto Garay, to oversee the reorganization of the railroad union leadership.

Railroad union leaders Raul Ravitti, Alberto Matarazzo and legislator Lorenzo Pepe, all members of the opposition Peronist Party which has traditionally controlled the labor sector, stressed yesterday that the government should offer substantial salary rises and guarantee the "legality" of the union reorganization measures. Ravitti warned that if the government does not meet the demands, it will be impossible to head off "wildcat strikes" which will gradually grow more intense.

The workers are demanding a minimum monthly salary of about $200 and the withdrawal of Garay. The unionists said they are "open to any kind of solution" but warned that they will only call off the May 9 strike if their demands are met.

Today labor leaders and officials of the state-run railroad company were meeting to negotiate on the demands.

The administration is concerned over the social and political repercussions of the planned strike, and sent senior officials, including Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli, Public Works Minister Roque Caranza, Labor Minister Juan Casella, and chief presidential aid German Lopez to the talks.

In addition to the immediate effects of the planned strike, which would bring transport and public transportation to a halt throughout the country, the protest action might encourage other trade unions to follow suit.

Alfonsin's administration, which inherited severe economic problems from the former seven-year military government, argues that the current crisis means the workers' demands must be put on hold.

LA PRENSA NOT PUBLISHED 3 CONSECUTIVE DAYS

PY071440 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1110 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 May (DYN) -- Due to a personnel conflict prompted by demands for a salary raise, the local daily LA PRENSA has failed to appear for 3 days in a row, including today.

The newspaper's print shop workers are planning to meet tomorrow with the director of the newspaper, Maximo Gainza, although negotiations aimed at solving the conflict will continue today.

LA PRENSA personnel are asking the newspaper to comply with the resolutions of the Argentine Union of Printers which established a minimum wage of 7,910 pesos for the lowest level and 13,650 for the highest level.

NA, DYN EXECUTIVES ON TELAM, PRESS ACTIVITY

PY040500 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0010 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 May (NA) -- Executives of the two Argentine private press agencies have criticized in different manners the existence of the official press agency TELAM, and Raul Kraiselburd, head of the Freedom of the Press Committee of IAPA, has admitted that there are still regulations which make press activity in Argentina "difficult." However, Kraiselburd said that "there are no journalistic activities violating the Constitution."

Jorge Fascetto, president of NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS (NA), labeled the existence of TELAM as "unacceptable" and Elvira Calle del Antequeda, head of DIARIOS Y NOTICIAS (DYN), said that the creation of this press agency "was not a wise decision."

The three press executives took part in a panel organized by the Institute of the Americas for Social and Juridical Research to study the situation of the press here. Jose Di Fiori, secretary of the institute, served as panel moderator.

Asked about the reasons for the creation of the two press agencies, Fascetto said that the creation of NA was an "unusual" event because "providing official information without official aid is an unusual event." He recalled that in 1973 the Peronist government approved a decree prohibiting international press agencies from providing local information to Argentine newspapers, which gave TELAM a "complete monopoly" over information. He added that because of this some provincial newspapers decided over 10 years ago to create NA and that "many hardships were experienced during those years."

Calle, who is also director of the newspaper LOS ANDES of Mendoza, talked about the value of information as "an agent for change" because "it is vital for guiding the opinion of the people."

Fascetto said that international press agencies such as UPI and AP "respond to the interests of their country and not to the government administration," indicating that other agencies are "semistate;" therefore, they do not enjoy complete independence for providing information. He added that the newspapers use from 10 to 20 percent of the information received from the press agencies.

In answer to another question he said that newspapers only get 50 percent of their selling price. He said that 40 to 50 percent of the total cost goes for buying newsprint and that this cost was in the past only 30 percent.

The panel also discussed the role of UNESCO in journalism. In this regard Kraiselburd, who is also director of the newspaper EL DIA of La Plata, said that since 1974 UNESCO reported an "imbalance" in the flow of information between the developed and developing countries which benefits the developed countries.

This matter was discussed by a committee headed by Ian McBride who wrote a report reaffirming that "each state has the sovereign right to have access to information." The report also indicated the need for the creation of a regional press agency with the participation of Cuba, Nicaragua, Haiti, Venezuela, Mexico, Costa Rica, and other countries. Argentina has been taking part in the conversations for the creation of this regional agency for the last 3 years.

Di Fiori then asked the members of the panel if TELAM fulfills any objective. Calle said that official agencies "are not necessary and their creation is not a wise decision" because "they operate in accordance with the opinion of the government in power."

Fascetto emphasized, in turn, that "the existence of an official agency under a democratic government is inadmissible." He added: "There is a Secretariat of Public Information to publicize government actions."

He went on to explain that TELAM "should not exist because it competes unfairly with NA and DYN. It can never go bankrupt because it gets funds from the Treasury and entirely manages official publicity."

Kraiselburd also referred to the "states which monopolize information," recalling that in 1973 NA suffered all types of obstacles to starting full operations.

He said: "In regulations, laws, etc, we have all the totalitarian apparatus to put an end to press agencies."

Fascetto, returning to the TELAM issue, said that keeping TELAM in operation "Is a useless waste of money."

Asked if "freedom of the press" currently prevails, Kraiselburd said that "it does in practice" but that "there are still regulations which can be enforced to obstruct freedom of information." Kraiselburd added: "There is a (legislative) mechanism which, if enforced, could prevent the practice of journalism."

One of the people attending the panel, former Finance Secretary Juan Alemann, asked why no actions were taken against TELAM, considering that the agency "is useless." Fascetto answered: "You are right, this is a good observation." However, Alemann was asked why TELAM was not closed during his administration. Alemann said: "I did not get any outside support." Fascetto reminded the former official that during the Ongania administration, when TELAM began to manage the publicity, "the newspapers protested."

The three executives agreed on the critical situation affecting many provincial newspapers and the problems affecting the private press agencies "which are not profitable."

Another participant in the panel, Admiral Francisco Alemann, retired, asked if solutions to the problems will be found under the current "democratic regime." Kraiselburd responded by saying that "there are no journalistic activities violating the Constitution. We know of no other system but democracy for the press."

Calle added that "journalism is part of dialectics in freedom," and that she has "faith in the current process."

Kraiselburd recognized that there is an "excess of concentration of power in the state" and that this "goes against journalism, which is an expression of pluralism."

BRIEFS

FORMER VICE PRESIDENT DIES -- Former Vice President of the Republic Vicente Solano Lima died yesterday of a heart attack at 82 years of age. He was the vice president of former President Hector Campora in 1973. [Summary] [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 24 Apr 84 PY]

NEW PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER -- Buenos Aires, 26 Apr (TELAM) -- Through Decree No 1,275 issued today, the government appointed Dr Teodoro Matzkin as presidential adviser with the rank of secretary of state. [Summary] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0003 GMT 27 Apr 84 PY]

GDR AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS -- President Raul Alfonsin today received the credentials of Horst Neumann, new GDR ambassador to Argentina. [Summary] [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 3 May 84 PY]

RICE TO IRAN -- Through the National Grain Board, the government of Entre Rios Province has sold 60,000 tons of rice to Iran. The operation is the result of negotiations carried out by the Argentine Rice Cooperatives Federation. [Text] [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 2 May 84 PY]

SOVIET CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION BEGINS VISIT

PY071910 Paris AFP in Spanish 1628 GMT 7 May 84

[Excerpt] Brasilia, 7 May (AFP) -- Sometimes the Soviet Union is considered as a threat in Latin America, but I can affirm that we do not practice aggressive policies, nor do we wish to conquer territories, CPSU Central Committee Secretary Mikhail Zimyanin said here today. Zimyanin is heading a 7-man Soviet congressional delegation which arrived in Brasilia last night and will stay in Brazil until 14 May, visiting Sao Paulo and Porto Alegre.

The Soviet delegation was received today by the chairman of the two congressional bodies, and this afternoon it will meet with Foreign Minister Saravia Guerreiro before going to the Planalto Palace for a meeting with President Joao Baptista Figueiredo. The Soviet congressmen will visit several agricultural and industrial centers in Brazil and, before returning to their country, they will return to Brasilia where they will sign a joint communique with the chairman of the Chamber of Deputies.

GOVERNMENT TO SEEK NEVES' SUPPORT FOR AMENDMENT

PY080222 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 7 May 84 p 1

[Text] In a statement to O GLOBO, Chief of the Civilian Household Leitao de Abreu yesterday said that the government will seek the support of the Tancredo Neves-led moderate faction of the Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party [PMDB] and did not rule out the possibility of the government conducting successful negotiations with opposition leaders concerning the Figueiredo amendment. He regretted some radicalized positions "which will not benefit anyone and which are a disservice to the country." He noted, however, that the government and himself are confident that satisfactory agreements will be achieved.

For his part, Vice President Aureliano Chaves has warned that it would be "terribly dangerous" to reject out of hand President Figueiredo's amendment and called for an agreement on the guidelines on which this bill is based. He proposed that an agreement be reached to approve this bill but made it clear that this agreement will not mean "approving the bill without changes."

PMDB-RUN 2-YEAR TRANSITION GOVERNMENT PROPOSED

PY080318 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 7 May 84 p 1

[Text] Last Saturday Governors Leonel Brizola and Franco Montoro agreed to support the election of a candidate who would be acceptable to all and who should be a member of the Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party, PMDB, to lead a 2-year transition government. The profile of this candidate, which was outlined by Montoro, suits Governor Tancredo Neves nicely. Commenting on this agreement, Deputy Airton Soares, leader of the Workers Party [PT] in the federal Chamber of Deputies, yesterday said: "The interested party here is Brizola." [Sao Paulo] Deputy Governor Orestes Quercia described as "strange" the agreement signed by the governors of Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo.

The PT will not accept proposals concerning a transition government, a pseudoparliamentary system, election by congress, or any other measure which would not result in direct elections now. This position is outlined in a document released by the new PT national executive board at the end of a national assembly held last weekend at the Sao Paulo State Legislative Assembly. Luis Inacio da Silva was reelected as president of the PT.

'VOLUNTARY' CURBS ON STEEL EXPORTS ANNOUNCED

PY040359 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Apr 84 p 17

[Text] Tarcisio Maricano da Rocha, head of the international affairs department of the Finance Ministry, has explained that the Brazilian Government decided yesterday to levy "voluntary restrictions" on its exports of carbon steel to the United States (this will apply to steel plate and cold and hot-rolled steel sheets) thus reducing steel exports from $300 million in 1983 to approximately $200 million this year. These "voluntary" restrictions will be enacted on Tuesday, 1 May, and will be in effect for at least 3 years, according to an official communique released by the Finance Ministry. The communique further adds that the restrictions will affect two-thirds of the iron and steel exports to the United States. In addition to the above-mentioned products, other flat steels similar to rolled sheets and nonflat steels will be kept under control to maintain stable quantities and enforce the self-restrictions.

The implementation of these measures constitutes an obvious Brazilian surrender to pressures which the United States has been applying through successive custom surcharges aimed at reducing Brazilian steel exports. Rocha denied any surrender but then said that Brazil hopes that these voluntary restrictions will prompt a withdrawal of the surcharges and that the actions undertaken in the United States against Brazilian iron and steel products will be dropped. "This is a substantial effort, a heavy sacrifice which Brazil is making. We believe that it deserves a positive response as far as solving the custom restrictions on our steel exports to the United States goes." He added: "Now there is room for an agreement."

Rocha also reported that the decision to implement voluntary restrictions was relayed yesterday to the U.S. Embassy, to the U.S. Department of Commerce, and to the USTR, United States Trade Representative [in English].

He emphasized that despite its decision to enact these restrictions, the Brazilian Government will continue its court battle to have the U.S. surcharges reviewed, by going before the International Trade Court, the GATT, and taking advantage of U.S. laws. Rocha said that Brazil is especially unwilling to accept the claim that having the federal government as a shareholder in iron and steel corporations and having access to financial incentives of Resolution 883 (credit for exports) which pay monetary adjustment plus only 3 percent interest, are subsidies.

Last year, Brazilian exports of the four products in question to the United States reached 814,346 tons of a total of 1,200,000 tons of iron and steel products exported to that country. The Brazilian Government has decided to cut down shipments between 1 May 1984 and 30 April 1985 to 430,000 tons; that is, a 47.2 percent reduction. Furthermore, this amount represents an 0.8 [as published] percent reduction of the yearly average of 467,550 tons which Brazil exported to the United States during the 1981-1983 period.

The total tonnage to be shipped during the first year of this new system (May 1984-April 1985) is broken up in the following manner:

1) Thick carbon steel plates, 120,000 tons
2) Rolled carbon steel plates, 20,000 tons
3) Hot-rolled steel sheets, 140,000 tons
4) Cold-rolled steel sheets, 150,000 tons

ARMY REASSERTS SUPPORT, LOYALTY TO PINOCHET

PY072314 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 7 May 84

[Excerpts] The generals corps, headed by Army Deputy Commander Lieutenant General Julio Canessa Robert, has expressed its full support for President Augusto Pinochet.

During a ceremony at the Defense Ministry, General Canessa said that the members of the Army reject the charges that a group of persons has raised [against President Pinochet]. He noted that this shows that some political opponents are desperate.

General Canessa said that the objective these politicians aim to achieve is to create a schism between the Army and its commander so as to destroy the prevailing unity.

[Begin Canessa recording] This is why generals representing the entire Army have come to your office to categorically repudiate this slander against you, and to reassert our strict loyalty and support. We also reassert our confidence in your actions since we are aware that the Army is day by day achieving a high level of professionalism, efficiency, and [word indistinct] discipline. [end recording]

MINISTER SCORES ANTARCTIC INTERNATIONALIZATION

PY042050 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 May 84

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle today said at a ceremony commemorating the (?7th) anniversary of the Superior Research Academy that Chile will continue to defend the inalienable right to choose its own destiny.

Regarding Antarctica, the foreign minister noted that Chile will not allow the internationalization of the continent and that it will be alert to any campaign to that end.

[Begin Del Valle recording] We have particular interest in safeguarding everything pertaining to Chilean rights [words indistinct]. It is our permanent policy to constantly reassert at the proper forums Chile's rights in the Antarctic Continent and to emphasize our characteristic as a developing country which is a neighbor to Antarctica.

(?For example), we are constantly on the alert to reject or neutralize any efforts to internationalize Antarctica, or any suggestion, initiative, or proposal that aims to cause Antarctica to be declared an international patrimony.

Within the framework of the International Antarctic System, of which we are part, we support [words indistinct] for the safeguard of national interests. In keeping with this policy, we promote the cooperation between the [word indistinct] parts and moreover, [words indistinct] promoting the enforcement of measures that regulate the exploration and exploitation of resources [words indistinct] so that all of us will have equal opportunities and equal decision-making power. [end recording]

BILATERAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS SIGNED WITH PERU

PY051519 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 5 May 84

[Text] A mixed permanent subcommission has been created for border cooperation with Peru. Its task will be to examine and solve the various problems that may occur along the border area.

This was one of the (?seven) bilateral agreements signed by the Chilean and Peruvian Foreign Ministry under secretaries, Sergio Covarrubias and Jose Carlos Mariategui, respectively. The ceremony took place in the Red Hall of the Foreign Ministry.

Among the signed agreements is also that of collective passenger transport on the Tacna-Arica highway, which will promote closer links between the two cities. There was also a telecommunications agreement and another about ham radio operators. Two complementary agreements in the areas of public administration and environment sanitation were also signed, the latter aimed at eradicating the fruit fly.

The documents were drawn up during 3 days of meetings of the Sixth Permament Chilean-Peruvian Bilateral Cooperation Commission.

OPPOSITION LEADER VALDES SAYS BEDROOM BUGGED

WA081147 Rome IPS in English 4 May 84

[Text] Santiago, May 4 (IPS) -- Chilean opposition leader Gabriel Valdes today charged that government security officials had installed a microphone in his bedroom.

"I suppose that it must have been put there somehow last year," the president of the Christian Democratic Party said. "I can only blame the security forces. It is shameful."

Valdes, a former Chilean foreign minister, showed reporters a small microphone and transmitter, which he said had been attached to the top of an exposed beam in his bedroom. His wife had found the bug when a battery fell out, he said.

"I imagine that someone interested in knowing what we talk about in the intimacy of our home has the tapes of those conversations," Valdes said. "There must be many more microphones planted in thousands more Chilean homes, because the military regime wants to know what is being said in the intimacy of the family," Valdes charged.

The opposition leader said he had "no idea" of the existence of the microphone. Christian Democrat officials are known to regularly sweep their headquarters with electronic bug detectors, but they did not check Valdes' bedroom. "We did not think they would ever go to the extreme of installing an electronic apparatus in a place as private as that," Valdes said.

The Christian Democrat leader also complained that he had seen a man on the roof of his house May 2. "He jumped down when we spotted him," Valdes said, "and he escaped, even though there is always a policeman on duty outside my home."

Action 'Dangerous Crime'

PY042131 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 4 May 84

[Excerpts] Political leaders have strongly condemned the placing of microphones in the bedroom of a seaside resort house of Gabriel Valdes, president of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC]. Opposition leaders, who unanimously condemned the bugging of the PDC leader's house, said that the action reported by Valdes is a dangerous crime.

VIOLENCE REPORTED IN SANTIAGO, CONCEPCION

EL MERCURIO Premises Attacked

PY080151 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0005 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Santiago, 7 May (EFE) -- A group of unidentified individuals have hurled a molotov cocktail at the newspaper EL MERCURIO building, setting fire to its facade.

At 1840 (2240 GMT) a group of unidentified persons hurled a lighted bottle of gasoline against the window of the newspaper archives 25 meters from the main entrance. According to newspaper sources, security guards put the fire out immediately. The police cordoned off the area, located in the heart of Santiago City, stopped traffic, and started to search for the attackers.

Along with the incendiary bomb the individuals hurled pamphlets containing slogans against the newspaper.

[Paris AFP in Spanish at 0102 on 8 May carries a report stating that "through a communique sent to the media, the self-styled Lautaro Youth Movement has stated that three of its brigades attacked the newspaper with incendiary bombs and intimidating objects." The commando termed the newspaper the ideological spokesman of the Chilean Government.]

Carabineros Station Hit

PY041528 Paris AFP in Spanish 1443 GMT 4 May 84

[Text] Government officials have reported that an unknown commando group today machine-gunned a Carabineros police station located near the access to a bridge in the City of Concepcion, the main city in southern Chile. It was reported that although the station was struck by dozens of bullets, the two policemen who were standing guard managed to take cover and were not hit.

A dynamite bomb was hurled at the facade [of the police station] but failed to go off.

According to the reports, the attack took place early in the morning while it was raining, and the attackers fled in one or two cars.

Several subversive actions of this type have taken place so far this year, both in Concepcion and in the capital Santiago.

FOREIGN MINISTER CITES CONFIDENCE IN DIALOGUE

PA071801 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Bogota -- Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo has guaranteed that the government will make adequate and correct use of the state of siege, without overstepping its limits. He reiterated his confidence that the peace dialogue would be fruitful and admitted that violence and drug trafficking give Colombia a negative image abroad.

COMMUNISTS REPORTEDLY ADVOCATE DIALOGUE, REFORM

PA051553 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 27 Apr 84 p 6 A

[From the "Political Activity" column, by Guillermo Perez: "Dialogue Proposal"]

[Text] The Communist Party of Colombia has announced it is ready for a dialogue with all the political groups based on an authentic political reform, and it criticized the viewpoint of former President Carlos Lleras, who was termed "defender of the 'restricted democracy' that prevails in the country."

The party added, in a statement issued yesterday, that the organization advocates a realistic agrarian reform, a complete labor reform, the right to information, university autonomy, and the eradication of the two-party system. It also reiterated that there is no crisis in the organization following the departure of Senator Humberto Criales de la Rosa.

PDC EXALTS LARA BONILLA, CALLS FOR ACTION

PA051716 Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 2 May 84 p 9 A

[Statement released by the National Political Committee of the Colombian Christian Democratic Party, PDC, in Bogota, on 1 May]

[Text] "The PDC, justly indignant over the assassination of Justice Minister Dr Rodrigo Lara Bonilla,

"1. Expresses its total rejection of the violence and abominable actions of secret groups intent on bringing moral decay and chaos to the country.

"2. Appeals for the solidarity of the Colombian people, their institutions, and the government in order to preserve our nationality and the Christian values that distinguish it.

"3. Exhorts the national political leaders to reflect on the causes that led to the present administrative corruption and that encouraged the yearning for easy money through drug trafficking. These things flourish better in societies which, like ours, are backward, socially unjust and politically feudal. The illustrious late justice minister fought against all this, and this was the immediate cause of his assassination. Unless democratic mechanisms that can change the current living conditions are adopted, repudiation of his assassination is worth little.

"4. Raises before Colombia's undefiled youth the example and life of Dr Rodrigo Lara Bonilla. Instead of the comforts of a private career without shocks, he chose the hazardous life of public service, understanding it as dedication to the community, and facing with integrity and valor the dishonesty and vice that have been undermining the very existence of our nationality.

"Bogota, 1 May 1984. For the National Political Committee, Carlos Alberto Naranjo Botero, national president. Juan Alberto Polo Figueroa, secretary general."

EDITORIAL CALLS FOR UNITY AGAINST CRIME

PA042147 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 1 May 84 p 4 A

[Editorial: "An Affront to Colombia"]

[Text] Surrounded by violence, tired of blood and pain, we must stoically but courageously face the cowardly assassination of our justice minister. All good Colombians stand up in recognizing the sacrifice of Rodrigo Lara Bonilla. We honor his memory, and while sobs subdue our protest voice, we promise before his dead body to form a united front to win the fight against crime, by every means.

Colombia is not going to fall into a hole. Lara Bonilla, as justice minister, offered his life, and his sacrifice will not be in vain. We pick up the glove thrown by the criminals. We do so convinced that we are siding with the country's best sons. The minister slain yesterday presided over us in the battle. We will follow him, and the best honor we can pay him would be a report of victory in which we could say out loud with heads held high and triumphant hearts: We have won!

The country is mourning and, at the same time, angry. We will not try to hide this. Neither will we be overcome by a wave of cowardly hysteria. Yes, we will face reality and ask for unity and determination from our authorities, public opinion, and all the active forces in the country. These sad moments will be a test for Colombia. Its sons will respond to the call of the fatherland, which can count on millions of Colombians willing to fight for an ideal nation, where the sound of bullets will fade due to the determination of people who were an example in America in the past, and will assume this role again in the future.

Silent, sad, but not discouraged, we offer our respects to this young citizen, Rodrigo Lara Bonilla, who gave his life for justice.

GOVERNMENT CONDUCTS HUNT FOR DRUG TRAFFICKERS

Eight Smugglers Arrested

PA041715 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 May 84

[Text] Bogota -- At least 80 people linked to drug trafficking were detained today by authorities, who are conducting a series of raids throughout the country.

According to reports, in the past few hours secret police organizations have managed to capture major drug traffickers and have confiscated weapons and material used in drug processing in Bogota, Cali, Medellin, Barranquilla, [name indistinct], Manizales, Santa Marta, Guajira, and Florencia.

Five people were arrested during operations (?against) drug traffickers in the past few hours in (?the city of Manizales), including one woman. According to reports, a large arsenal was confiscated at a modern house owned by Roberto Escobar, whose brother is Pablo Escobar, considered one of the heads of the drug traffickers. The weapons found include four cases of ammunition, revolvers, pistols, uniforms used exclusively by U.S. and Colombian soliders, and various items used in cocaine processing. Roberto Escobar's girlfriend was arrested at the residence of [name indistinct].

Likewise, authorities have managed to confiscate [words indistinct] and have arrested some 80 people linked to international drug trafficking networks during operations currently under way in all Colombian cities.

'Operation Rake' Gets Results

PA050429 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 4 May 84

[Excerpts] Bogota -- Drug trafficking leaders in Colombia are on the run as the police, secret agencies, and the Army conducted raids of their properties, arresting approximately 100 persons linked to organized crime.

Sixty hours after President Belisario Betancur's announcement of a direct war against crime and drug trafficking following the assassination of the justice minister, arrests were made in Barranquilla, Armenia, Pereira, Manizales, Cali, Armero, and Bogota, while the authorities continued their efforts to capture Pablo Escobar Gavidia, Carlos Lehder Rivas, Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, and members of the Ochoa Plan.

Operation Rake, against the drug traffickers, had its best results in Pereira, where 50 persons were arrested; 22 were captured in Armenia; 9 in Barranquilla; 9 in Antioquia; 4 in Manizales; 6 in Armero, and an undisclosed number in Bogota.

Homes and business establishments owned by Pablo Escobar Gavidia and his brother Roberto were raided, as well as those of Carlos Lehder, Fabio Ochoa, Evaristo Porras, and Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, among others. Others are being sought throughout the national territory.

The authorities also confiscated weapons, vehicles, communications equipment, and even automobiles equipped with bulletproof glass.

On a farm at Puerto Gaitan, Meta Department, two persons were arrested and a plane owned by Lehder Rivas, which had been detected by the authorities a few days ago, was seized.

The intense hunt for drug traffickers will continue until all are in the hands of justice, a ranking police official said, adding that we are trying to block all escape routes.

The government has issued warrants for the arrest of 43 persons sought by the U.S. Government to be tried in the country for conspiracy to introduce drugs in the country. The U.S. Embassy submitted a list of names and a formal request for extradition.

Meanwhile, in Cali, approximately 28 homes suspected of being used by drug traffickers were raided in different sectors of the valley by local police agents. The radis, which included the arrest of several persons and the seizure of weapons and ammunition, were made in the municipalities of Cali, Palmira, Sevilla, Cartago, (Calcedonia), (Zulua), and Buenaventura, according to police reports.

Arrests in Antioquia

PA060020 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 5 May 84

[Excerpts] Antioquia -- Operations against drug trafficking began in Antioquia Department this morning, specifically in the departmental capital and in the Urraca Valley. General Rafael Paisa Vergara, 4th Brigade commander, told this station that he has detained six presumed drug trafficking leaders.

They are Raul Torres Ardila, Fabio Ochoa Restrepo, Jorge Perez Zapata, Luis Alberto Uribe Correa, Alonso Molino Canola, and private pilot Leovigildo Cleto Cortes.

Antioquia police chief Colonel Jose Hugo Tirado Castaneda said that 15 other people were arrested in operations carried out in several villages.

The six presumed drug trafficking leaders in Medellin were handed over to a military judge, before whom they are making statements. The judge has declared that they will have all necessary guarantees for their defense.

There is another list containing the names of 20 additional men who are being sought by the authorities in Medellin. In short, the war against drug traffickers is growing more intense by the minute in Medellin and other parts of Antioquia Department.

Searches in Magdalena

PA060005 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 5 May 84

[Text] Santa Marta -- In recent hours, the 1st Army Division stationed in the capital of Magdalena Department has continued to search the homes of men suspected of involvement in drug trafficking.

Division Commander General (Jose Manuel Gonzalez Prada) told this newscast that the authorities have evidence that will lead to the arrest and detention of several people involved in drug trafficking. The officer confirmed that the most important raids have taken place in the city of Santa Marta and the village of Cienaga.

DRUG MAFIA THREATENS JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES

PA080455 Paris AFP in Spanish 2021 GMT 7 May 84

[Excerpt] Bogota, 7 May (AFP) -- The drug mafia has reacted to the declaration of war issued by President Belisario Betancur's government. It was learned today that death threats have been made against judicial branch officials.

The first threats were reported in the cities of Barranquilla, on the Atlantic Coast, a center for the cultivation of marijuana; Pereira, in the coffee zone to the west; and Popayan, to the southwest, where an attack took place today. According to public reports, the drug traffickers have begun to send threatening clandestine bulletins or to make anonymous telephone calls to government officials.

The Colombian drug mafia has been in disarray for the past week, ever since Betancur declared war on crime as a result of the assassination of Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla. One of those who has been threatened, a police inspector in Pereira, capital of the coffee Province of Risaralda, said that an anonymous voice warned him over the telephone: "You can catch a bullet just like Lara did."

Today, Magistrate Joaquin Emilio Munoz of the Higher Court of Popayan, a city that was destroyed on 31 March 1983 by an earthquake, was the target of an attack by individuals dressed in military clothing. The judge, whose automobile was taken, was injured. Similar threats have been made against judicial authorities in Barranquilla and in Medellin, which has been considered the mecca of the drug traffickers for some time.

FEBRES CORDERO WINS BY OVER 100,000 VOTES

PA071401 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 7 May 84

[Excerpts] Leon Febres Cordero, a 53-year-old Social Christian mechanical engineer and businessman, is Ecuador's president-elect after defeating his Social Democratic opponent, lawyer Rodrigo Borja Cevallos, in the runoff election.

Borja Cevallos, 47, who on 29 January won the first electoral round by a margin of 34,000 votes, said last night: We have lost the battle, but not the war.

According to the last bulletin issued last night by the government after counting 2,874,950 votes -- almost the total number of votes cast -- Febres Cordero received 1,353,968 votes, or 52.08 percent of the vote, and Borja Cevallos 1,245,898 votes, that is 47.92 percent. There were over 100,000 votes in favor of Febres Cordero. This figure can in no way be matched [by the other side], but it must now be confirmed by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, which will officially proclaim Febres Cordero as the candidate who, on 2 August, will be given command by President Osvaldo Hurtado Larrea.

BRIEFS

CONTRACT WITH CLARK OIL -- With the signing yesterday of an oil sale contract with the Clark Oil Refinery Corporation, a subsidiary of the Apex Oil Company, all of the oil marketed abroad by the Ecuadoran State Petroleum Corporation, CEPE, is now being sold through long-term contracts. The contract with the Clark Oil Refinery Corporation is for 12,000 barrels a day. With this Ecuador markets abroad a total of 54,000 barrels a day. [Summary] [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 26 Apr 84 PA]

FOREIGN DEBT AGREEMENT -- Quito, 4 May (LATIN-REUTER) -- A Central Bank communique today reported that Ecuador has reached an agreement with the committee of its private foreign investors on conditions to refinance the $353-million public debt due this year. The bank added that the new loan is to be paid in 8 years, with a 4-year grace period, at an annual interest rate of 1.5 percent over the U.S. prime rate and 1.75 over the LIBOR rate. [Excerpt] [Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2350 GMT 4 May 84 PA]

AYACUCHO COMMAND DENIES 'LACK OF DISCIPLINE'

PY051800 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 5 May 84

[Excerpts] The political-military command in Ayacucho has denied reports in a Lima daily saying that there have been acts of indiscipline among the forces of order. The following is a report by our correspondent (Mario Cueto Cardenas):

[Begin (Cueto) recording] The Ayacucho political-military command has rejected, in communique No 11, the reports published by the daily MARKA in today's issue about an alleged lack of discipline in the Ayacucho barracks. The political-military command says that the report is subjective and misleading and wholly rejects it for being totally untrue and ill-intentioned. The command makes known to the public that the forces of order operating in the emergency zone continue to maintain intact, on all levels, their principles of subordination, good morale, and discipline. [end recording]

TEN TERRORISTS KILLED IN CLASHES IN AYACUCHO

PY041615 Paris AFP in Spanish 2319 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Lima, 3 May (AFP) -- The Ayacucho political-military authority reported on Thursday that 10 terrorists were killed last night in two clashes with Army and police troops.

The source added that Shining Path terrorist group carried out an attack against the town of Andamarca, which has a military garrison, and that the attack was repelled by the military detachment. It added that there were six casualties among the terrorists. The source also said that extremists ambushed a police vehicle in Flor de la Canela, 33 km south of Ayacucho. The source added that four terrorists were killed and that there were five wounded, three of whom are members of the Armed Forces.

The authority also reported that Army Commander Julian Julia and General Sisesio, chief of the military region with headquarters in Lima, arrived today in Ayacucho for an inspection visit.

NUMEROUS TERRORIST ACTIONS, CLASHES REPORTED

PY072027 Paris AFP in Spanish 1826 GMT 6 May 84

[Text] Lima, 6 May (AFP) -- Members of the Peruvian extremist group Shining Path last night blew up the main pipeline of the water supply network, the power station, and a school building in Huancavelica City, 522 km southeast of Lima, the police reported here today. The people were left without water and some of them without power.

During the attacks which took place simultaneously at 2230 local time (0330 GMT), two persons were injured, heavy damages were inflicted and the population was alarmed. The sources added that approximately 10 bombs went off simultaneously.

Meanwhile, some 15 heavily armed terrorists led by a woman murdered a peasant in the Santa Rosa de Coina hamlet in Trujillo, 500 km north of Lima, looted several stores, and then retreated to unknown areas, according to the police. The police also reported that Patrolman Alberto Castillo was killed by two terrorists who stole his weapon in Vischopgos district, Ayacucho Department, on Friday. Unconfirmed reports also indicated that yesterday radio journalist Federo Pavel Rivera was kidnapped by unknown individuals from his residence in Huanta, Ayacucho Department.

Police Kill, Capture Eight

PY071800 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0220 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Lima, 6 May (EFE) -- Police sources reported today that eight terrorists died in a clash with an Army patrol, and eight more were captured by the Civil Guard in the Andean Department of Ayacucho. The confrontation, during which an officer and two soldiers were also wounded, took place in the district of Ancho in La Mar Province, Ayacucho Department, when the patrol overtook a subversive group. The same sources reported that the terrorists, approximately 20 in number, withdrew after eight of their members died, taking their wounded with them.

In the city of Ayacucho, 575 km southeast of Lima, the Civil Guards captured eight leaders of the Shining Path group: five men and three women. They are Jesus Cuba, Teodosio Gomez, Freddy Quinto, Santos Chocce, and Moises Cuba, all of them 18 years of age; Irene Chauca, 29 years of age, and two minors identified as Comrades "Luz" and "Marina."

According to the police, this group had participated in attacks that took place during Holy Week in Ayacucho, and in those that took place in the past few days.

The police added that the clues for the capture of these terrorists were given by Moises Bautista Salvatierra, "Comrade Emerson," who was detained last Sunday.

'Comrade Elena' Arrested

PY042055 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 22 Apr 84 p 23

[Excerpt] University student Maria Concepcion Urquizo Sanchez, age 27, alias "Comrade Elena," who is a member of the "military command of the Central Committee" of the communist group Shining Path, has been identified by means of an "identikit."

"Comrade Elena," also known as "Monica" and "Ines," was captured a few days ago by the Antiterrorism Division of the Peruvian Investigative Police [DIRCOTE-PIP].

The identikit drawn by PIP's identification division a few months ago completely matched the features of her face, features that were supplied by other Shining Path members who had been captured before.

The university student ["Comrade Elena"] has a round face, a flat nose, a mole on her mouth, and wears her hair short.

It was learned from the DIRCOTE-PIP that Maria Urquizo Sanchez has confirmed that Alfredo Castillo Montanez, alias "Comrade Pablo," and Karl Casanova Rodriguez, alias "Comrade Avo," had participated in the first attack against the Popular Action headquarters. Both of them are still at large.

Urquizo Sanchez also revealed that Saul Padilla Diza, alias "Comrade Ricra" or "Isaac" participated in the subversive attack against the Civil Guard station in Collique.

DRUG TRAFFICKERS, JOINT FORCES CLASH IN PUNO

PY072326 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0418 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Lima, 6 May (EFE) -- It was reported today in Lima that joint police, Army, and Navy forces have encountered heavy armed resistance from a group of peasants during an operation against drug trafficking gangs in the Puno Department.

The security forces were able to arrest four drug traffickers in two towns while they confiscated trucks, motorcycles, guns, and 9 kg of cocaine hydrochloride in four other towns.

The report, which was published today by the newspaper EL COMERCIO, notes that the drug traffickers supply arms to the peasants to protect them from the police.

The first part of the operation, which was carried out in the towns of Yuguyo, Lave, and Cuturapi, was carried out by the Peruvian Investigative Police (PIP). The PIP, which arrested four drug traffickers, had to fight off the peasants who attacked them.

The PIP requested support from the Army and the Navy in view of what happened in these towns to carry out an operation in Llantamaya, Kiluyo, Paputi, and Chiramaya where they had to confront the peasants. The drug traffickers took advantage of the attack to flee.

INTERNATIONAL RESERVES PASS $800 MILLION

PY042125 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 23 Apr 84 p A4

[Text] Ricard Webb, president of the Peruvian Central Reserve Bank [BCR], yesterday said that Peruvian international reserves now are in excess of $800 million.

Concerning the daily increases in the dollar exchange rate, Webb said that the dollar exchange rate keeps pace with the inflation rate. Webb denied that the dollar exchange rate against the Peruvian sol is getting out of hand, as some news media want people to believe. Asked about the possibility that the exchange rate may reach 5,000 soles per dollar by years-end, as some observers believe, Webb said that no figures can be provided, since it is very difficult to make this type of forecast.

On the other hand, clarifying some reports, Webb stated that this year the monetary issuance will be kept at the minimum level, because the monetary program outlined for this year is being applied.

Webb added that it is a BCR policy to maintain this monetary restriction during the current fiscal year, seeking to partly curb inflation but, primarily, to overcome the illiquidity in the balance of payments.

Webb said that as long as the Peruvian balance of payments is not significantly improved, a relatively restricted economic policy will have to be maintained.

Regarding the negotiations with the IMF, Webb said that a reply to the latter will be forthcoming around the middle or at the end of this week.

BLANCO PARTY BEGINS CAMPAIGN FOR PLEBISCITE

PY071750 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1313 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Montevideo, 7 May (EFE) -- Leaders of the National (Blanco) Party of Uruguay have stated that they have gathered 125,000 citizens' signatures on the first day of the campaign to seek popular support for a plebiscite that would annul the acts of the military government. The Blanco Party leaders seek the abolishment of decrees which prevent the candidacy of exiled leader Wilson Ferreira Aldunate, wanted by the military courts of the Uruguayan regime.

Interior Minister General Julio Cesar Rapela has stated that the plebiscite will not be authorized. Politicians of the Blanco Party feel that it is "constitutional" and that there is no rule that forbids consultation with the citizenry.

To demand a plebiscite, the Blancos need 250,000 signatures, approximately 10 percent of the registered citizens, according to the 1967 Constitution, partly amended by the military regime after the coup of 27 June 1973. The mobilization of the Blanco Party, one of the two most important parties in the country, will end on 25 May, the deadline for presenting the signatures to the electoral court.

The other parties do not support the call to a plebiscite, because they feel that it is "infeasible" in an electoral year. Nevertheless, the Blancos believe that they will succeed in collecting the signatures of 1 million citizens.

The position of the party, controlled by groups that support Ferreira Aldunate, who is currently in Buenos Aires after a 10-year exile in Europe, has led the military government to consider that position as "a plan to destabilize the country."

OPPOSITION UNION NEWSPAPER CLOSED DEFINITIVELY

PY050020 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0001 GMT 5 May 84

[Text] Montevideo, 4 May (EFE) -- The publishers of CONVICCION have reported that the Uruguayan Military Government today decided to definitively close down the opposition union newspaper. The chief publisher, Enrique Fernandez Alonso, was tonight summoned to the headquarters of the Montevideo police, where he was told of the decision of General Gregorio Alvarez' government.

GOVERNMENT SETS LAWS FOR CABLE TELEVISION

PY051421 Paris AFP in Spanish 0227 GMT 5 May 84

[Text] Montevideo, 4 May (AFP) -- The Uruguayan Government has approved the laws that will regulate the cable television system, a service to which television users tune in directly. According to an official decree these services will be subjected to the control of the National Administration for Telecommunications (ANTEL) and the National Directorate of Public Relations (DINARP).

According to the government, this system is not to carry any sort of advertising nor programs from other television stations, either domestic or foreign. It is also contemplated that prospective users will be called upon to send in applications to use this service.

Sources close to this television system after AFP that the installation of a single cable channel will cost approximately $2 million and that it will be in full operation in 3 years.

CIA-BACKED PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE CHARGED

PA060001 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 4 May 84

[Text] The U.S. Central Intelligency Agency, CIA, is being charged with financing a public relations office that operates in Venezuela. The office works to improve the electoral image of Salvadoran presidential candidate Jose Napoleon Duarte. [passage indistinct] The statement was made by the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, which supports Roberto D'Aubuisson, in reply to the charge [words indistinct].

SOVIET AMBASSADOR ON CONTADORA, C.A. CONFLICT

PA062010 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 24 Apr 84 p D 4

["Miraflores in Sight" column by J. Lossasa Rondon]

[Text] Self-Determination of the Peoples?

Simon Alberto Consalvi [secretary of the Presidency] has received Soviet Ambassador Vayno Iosifovich Vyalyas, and the two discussed "the Soviet Union's position on many current international problems."

[Question] Did you talk about Central America and the Contadora Group?

[Vyalyas] That was the main topic, due to the interventionist stands observable in that area and the mining of Nicaraguan ports. The Soviet Union invariably advocates the peaceful political solution of the problems of Central America, especially at the regional level.

We told Ambassador Vyalyas, who talked to journalists through an interpreter, that President Ronald Reagan has accused the Soviet Union of wanting to establish more Cubas in El Salvador and throughout the region, including Nicaragua.

[Vyalyas] I do not wish to comment on that incompetent statement by the President of the United States. I believe that should be left to his own conscience. I only wish to express the views of the Soviet Government. The Soviet Union favors a peaceful political option, a solution of the Central American crisis through dialogue.

In answer to another question, Vyalyas answered very seriously:

We respect the right to the self-determination of the peoples, their right to choose their own destiny and resolve their own problems without foreign interference. The Soviet Union is decidedly against foreign intervention in the affairs of other peoples; it supports the Contadora Group's efforts and views them with understanding. That is our position, our viewpoint. We support the people's right to self-determination.

BRIEFS

FUNDS FOR AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL -- The International Agricultural Development Fund (FIDA), through the Agriculture and Livestock Credit Foundation [Fundacion de Cooperacion de Credito Agropecuario] (FUNDACEA), has donated $1.2 million for the Simon Bolivar United World Agricultural Experimental School [Colegio Experimental de Agricultura del Mundo Unido Simon Bolivar], which will begin to function in Barinas next year. Carlos Rafael Silva, president of the Venezuelan Investment Fund and Venezuela's governor at the FIDA, presided over the ceremony. [Excerpts] [Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 24 Apr 84 p D 6 PA]

LABOR LEADER ACCUSES CIA IN MAY DAY DISTURBANCES

LD040957 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0900 GMT 4 May 84

[Text] Mexico City, May 4 (TANJUG) -- Fidel Velazquez, leader of the Confederation of Mexican Workers (CTM), has accused the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of complicity in the attempt on life during the central celebration of May Day in Mexico City. On that day several molotov cocktails were thrown at the presidential palace in which were President Miguel de la Madrid and his associates and foreign guests. One of these crude fire bombs fell at the balcony and lightly injured three persons. The responsibility for this attempt on life was claimed by the Revolutionary Workers Party (PRT), a radical party of the left in Mexico.

The Mexican Government will take sharp measures, President De la Madrid said Tuesday evening, emphasizing that "foreign meddling" should be seen in the whole of that action. His government will not allow that Mexico be dismembered from outside, he underlined.

The trade union leader completed the president's claims by explicitly stating that the bomb-throwing action was organized by CIA. In the past few years, his statement has been the most serious accusation by official Mexico aimed at Washington's interference in Mexico's internal affairs.

Making a statement after the president and the leader of the strongest progovernment trade union grouping, Secretary of Interior Manuel Bartlett stressed that that "foreign meddling" was to be found in the whole action.

A thing characteristic is that this warning and accusations of Washington came immediately prior to Miguel de la Madrid's visit to the U.S. scheduled for mid-May.

GOVERNMENT TO HELP FIRMS PAY FOREIGN DEBT

FL041533 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0040 GMT 4 May 84

[Text] Mexico City, 3 May (NOTIMEX) -- Nationalized banks will sell controlled foreign currency to firms established in the country so that they may pay foreign debts, the Bank of Mexico announced today. It was explained that industries with overdue debts as of 1 January of this year, contracted prior to 20 December 1982, will be able to acquire foreign currency at low rates.

It was noted that firms with overdue foreign debts will not be compelled to agree to a restructuring or postponement of the payments to obtain the controlled-type foreign currency. It was indicated that some firms are negotiating the restructuring of the overdue payments of debts contracted prior to 31 December 1983.

In connection with this program, interested debtors will be able to open accounts of controlled foreign currency at the country's banking institutions. Said accounts will be paid with national currency at the rate of exchange existing on the day of payment, which would make it possible for the depositor to cover exchange risks.

PRESIDENT DE LA MADRID ARRIVES IN CANADA

For reportage on the visit to Canada by President Miguel de la Madrid, including his arrival, meetings with Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, and his meeting with Canadian legislators, see the Canada section of the 8 May Western Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

UNOFFICIAL RESULTS SHOW ARDITO LEADING ELECTION

PA071933 [Editorial Report] Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish at 1907 GMT on 7 May carried the following unofficial election results for the 6 May presidential elections:

Presidential Candidate	Party	Votes
Nicolas Ardito Barletta	National Democratic Union	220,225
Arnulfo Arias Madrid	Democratic Opposition Alliance	211,757

The vote counts for other parties were not given.

Official Count Given

PA072351 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2313 GMT 7 May 84

[Excerpt] Panama City, 7 May (ACAN-EFE) -- The first official results of yesterday's presidential elections, issued by the National Vote Counting Board, show that Nicolas Ardito Barletta, candidate for the National Democratic Union (UNADE), is leading the vote count.

Twenty-four hours after the voting closed on Sunday, only the results of Circuit 8-3, corresponding to the towns of Chame and San Carlos, near the capital, are known.

The report from the National Vote Counting Board (JEN) reveals that 45-year-old economist Barletta received 3,033 votes, amounting to 52.32 percent of the votes issued in that circuit.

Meanwhile, Arnulfo Arias Madrid, candidate for the Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADO), obtained 2,537 votes, or 43.76 percent.

Former General Ruben Dario Paredes of the Popular Nationalist Party (PNP) obtained 118 votes, or 2 percent of the votes.

Vote Count Continues

PA080414 [Editorial Report] Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0044 GMT on 8 May carried the following official election results for the 6 May presidential elections from the district of Chitre, circuit No 6-1. All figures are as heard.

Presidential Candidate	Party	Votes
Nicolas Ardito Barletta	National Democratic Union	7,123
Arnulfo Arias Madrid	Democratic Opposition Alliance	5,511
Ruben Dario Paredes	Popular Nationalist Party	68
Carlos Ivan Zuniga	Popular Action Party	132
Jose Renan Esquivel Oses	United People's Front	44
Carlos Del Cid	People's Party	87
Ricardo Barria	Workers Socialist Party	6
Void		381
Total votes counted		13,638

CANDIDATES DISCUSS PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Ardito Claims Lead

PA071831 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1703 GMT 7 May 84

[Statement issued by presidential candidate Nicolas Ardito Barletta to national and international journalists, at the National Democratic Union, UNADE, headquarters in Panama City -- live]

[Excerpts] The information that we have is that the elections took place without significant incidents. Likewise, we feel deeply satisfied with the support of UNADE followers who voted to express their trust in our government platform for Panama. The information that we have as of 3 hours ago, according to unofficial reports of the votes from all the country, reveals that we lead other candidates with a margin of approximately 10,000 votes. [applause]

[Unidentified reporter] Dr Ardito Barletta, could you explain how the votes from [figure indistinct] tables were distributed? Doctor Arias already gave a detailed explanation about this.

[Ardito Barletta] Well, the information I just gave you is also posted up outside the UNADE headquarters, with all the details. Anyway, the overall figures we have say these 2,489 voting tables have reported 220,225 votes in our favor and 211,757 votes in Arias' favor.

[Reporter] When do you expect to receive the official results?

[Ardito Barletta] I understand that the National Vote Counting Board started a meeting approximately 1 hour ago, to establish the method they will use for the official vote count. I do not know if there will be any results tonight -- perhaps tomorrow. Of course, we all hope this is as quick as possible, for the people's sake. As I said before, we will wait serenely, calmly, and with the conviction of what are our rights and duties.

[Reporter] Dr Ardito Barletta, we know that you have carried out a magnificent campaign in 2 months -- to counter your opponent's 50-year political campaign. I would like to ask you: The citizenry is interested in knowing the final figures. Since you have received information from different parties, is it possible that you will hold another press conference tomorrow morning to reveal this information -- given that the National Vote Counting Board's information will take longer?

[Ardito Barletta] Well, the parties comprising UNADE are receiving the information from the voting table representatives and we might publicize this information when we have it. However, we believe it is much more important to respect the National Vote Counting Board's procedure -- according to the law -- to establish the definitive and official figures.

Arias Feels Confident

PA071953 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1812 GMT 7 May 84

[Report by Rene Hernandez from the headquarters of the Democratic Opposition Alliance, ADO, in Panama City on 7 May -- recorded]

[Text] The ADO candidates -- Arnulfo Arias Madrid, Carlos Rodriguez, and Ricardo Arias Calderon -- this morning held a news conference to discuss yesterday's election, during which the Panamanian people, by direct popular voting, chose the president of the Republic, the vice president, and the legislators.

Arias Madrid said that this election will be won by the best and that the Panamanian people will choose the candidate of their preference. The leader of the Authentic Panamenist Party was surrounded by the national and international reporters and cameramen.

Arias Madrid stressed that he wants justice for all of the country's social sectors, and that his government policy will be based on respect and honesty. The ADO candidate expressed his concern over the delays in the National Vote Counting Board, which is charged with the final vote-counting and will announce the winners.

According to the opposition members, preliminary reports show that their candidate, Dr Arias Madrid, has taken the lead over Dr Nicolas Ardito Barletta.

Concerning this, Dr Arias Calderon said the following:

[Begin recording] [Arias Calderon] These are not only the results from a single province, but in a large majority of the country's provinces. The ones with the most population show a clear majority in favor of Dr Arias Madrid. Continuation of the vote-counting process, as we receive the pertinent documents from our representatives, merely confirms the lead that we took right from the beginning. There is a continuous, clear, and firm projection on behalf of Dr Arias Madrid in those provinces with the largest populations. Nothing suggests that this line of development will or can really change under normal circumstances, except if someone puts his hand in.

[Unidentified reporter] In what provinces have you won?

[Arias Calderon] The major provinces, where our victory has been clearest and best defined, are Panama, Chiriqui, and Colon. We also have a clear majority in Bocas del Toro. We have fewer documents from other minor provinces. In some of them there is a slight advantage for the official candidate; in others there is a slight advantage for Dr Arias Madrid. In the smaller provinces the outcome is less clear. But overall, there is no room for doubt as to what the results are indicating. [end recording]

When Dr Arias Madrid was asked what the Panamanian people's possible actions might be with regard to the results of the elections, he answered:

[Begin Arias Madrid recording] It is the people (?who must take) the action, not us. I do not want any blood or violence. [end recording]

Many Panamanians have come to the ADO offices here on Balboa Avenue to follow closely the opposition parties' final vote-counting process.

CONCERN GROWING OVER VOTE COUNTING PROCEDURE

Board President Explains Delay

PA071415 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1314 GMT 7 May 84

[Interview with Ismael Garcia, president of the National Vote Counting Board, by Omaira de Leon at the Justo Arosemena Legislative Palace in Panama City -- live]

[Text] [De Leon] The session of the National Vote Counting Board, which was supposed to have resumed at 0800, has not yet started, and it is already 0814. However, this station, in its effort to keep the people informed, has contacted Ismael Garcia, president of the National Vote Counting Board, who is now with us. He will explain the reason for the delay and tell us about the progress of the collection of tally sheets which are being received here.

[Garcia] Regarding the delay, I must tell you that the system is a little complicated. One must take into consideration that we have 14 parties with many candidates for legislators. The problem we have here is that they must send a list, a tally sheet, containing the results of the election in the given district. In other words, it must include a tally of votes for president, vice president, and also legislators. So, they cannot do anything else. Simply put, the system to count the various classifications of candidates is difficult and complicated.

[De Leon] Have you looked into the possibility of finding a new means to speed up the counting of votes?

[Garcia] We can't do anything. I am waiting for members of the tribunal. They will be here soon, and I am going to suggest what I think can be done, but those who know the code better than I do -- I am not a lawyer -- have told me it cannot be done. We will see. We must take some measures.

[De Leon] We have observed that some representatives of the political parties to this board are absent.

[Garcia] That poses no problem because we will hold the session with those who show up. But what is the use of holding a session when we have nothing to check?

[De Leon] How many voting tally sheets have been received?

[Garcia] None. You see those tally sheets there are from the polling places, but they are not what we have to check. We need the tally sheets from the electoral districts, and we have received none.

[De Leon] Thank you.

[Garcia] It is not a matter of negligence on our part or anything like that. The problem is that we can't do anything. What can we do? I am very worried about this because I know everybody wants to know the results of the election but...[changes thought] All I can tell the people is to be patient and wait until we solve the problem in accordance with the code. That is all I can say.

[De Leon] Thank you.

Tribunal Issues Urgent Call

PA071819 Paris AFP in Spanish 1740 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Panama City, 7 May (AFP) -- In an effort to speed up the process, the Panamanian Electoral Tribunal today at noon ordered that the 40 district vote-counting boards -- regional boards -- "urgently send" the data on the presidential election held yesterday, Sunday.

In announcing the corresponding decree, Electoral Tribunal President Cesar Quintero explained that although these data have already been processed by those boards, they have not been able to transmit them, because the law forces them to send them together with the data on the election for legislators, "for which the vote-counting process is very slow."

According to Quintero, it is inexcusable that while the results of the elections held yesterday in Ecuador and El Salvador are already known, "in Panama, we still have these problems."

Meanwhile, the National Vote Counting Board -- which is made up of representatives of the 14 parties involved in the process -- has rejected a motion that proposed initiating the presidential votecount directly on the basis of the documents prepared by the 3,902 electoral places.

In the meantime, the board has decreed a new 2-hour recess while its president, Ismael Garcia, asserted that the first official results of the presidential election might be announced this afternoon.

Council May Hold Meeting

PA081213 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 8 May 84 p A1

[Text] Reliable sources last night notified this newspaper about the possibility that a special cabinet council may be held this morning to review the most recent developments connected with the election and to exhort the presidential candidates, their fellow party members, and the citizens in general to remain calm. The meeting would also seek to speed up the vote-counting process for president and vice president and give it priority above the vote-counting process for legislators.

Results of Circuit Challenged

PA081409 Panama City YA in Spanish 8 May 84 p 2

[Text] This newspaper has been informed that all 314 voting tables of Electoral Circuit 8-6 [San Miguelito Special District] have been challenged.

The National Democratic Union (UNADE) and the Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADO), the two majority groups opposing each other in the elections, are both impugning the results of these tables. This step affects the country's largest electoral circuit, which has more than 100,000 voters.

The results of the tables are being contested on the grounds that several election certificates were prepared erroneously -- according to the two groups -- which affected all of the voting tables.

This situation has to be brought to the attention of the National Vote Counting Board since it is not in the purview of the electoral oversight committee.

It has been learned from several political leaders that opposition candidate Arnulfo Arias Madrid has apparently garnered a majority of the votes in this electoral circuit.

Vote Counting Recessed

PA080208 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0134 GMT 8 May 84

[Announcer-read report from the Justo Arosemena Legislative Palace in Panama City -- live relay]

[Text] A recess has been declared until tomorrow. We consider the decision appropriate and positive, given the incidents that have occurred outside the Legislative Palace. It is practically impossible to continue to receive the election minutes from the electoral circuits so that the National Vote Counting Board may continue its work. At this time everything is calm here and many national Defense Force troops are on guard to ensure the safety of the people who are inside. An effort will be made to maintain this security, so that these people can leave the Legislative Palace.

We want to emphasize that a large number of journalists are here, both domestic and foreign. It is really quite impressive.

Since yesterday they have covered the development of the elections here continually. The journalists have obtained great support from the Electoral Tribunal and the National Vote Counting Board. The National Telecommunications Institute installed a good number of telephones with open international lines so that the journalists could file their reports.

ELECTIONS ACCOMPANIED BY VIOLENCE, DISTURBANCES

Hundreds of Supporters Clash

PA080010 Panama City Radio Exitosa Network in Spanish 2356 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Shortly after 1830 [2330 GMT], confrontations erupted among supporters of different Panamanian political persuasions in front of the Legislative Palace, the headquarters of the National Vote Counting Board.

Several hundred people from various parties became involved in a fight. Eyewitnesses heard shooting as the people involved attacked each other.

The disturbances took place after supporters of the various presidential candidates who participated in yesterday's elections had been gathering at the site for several hours.

The Legislative Palace is in the downtown area of Panama City, close to what used to be the border between the capital and the former Canal Zone.

Shots, Bombs Heard

PA080040 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0011 GMT 8 May 84

[Excerpt] Panama City, 7 May (ACAN-EFE) -- Early this evening there were numerous disturbances in the downtown areas of the city, close to the Legislative Palace, the headquarters of the National Vote Counting Board.

Several hundred Panamanians began fighting in front of the Juan Demostenes Arosemena Palace [as received], which is usually the seat of the National Legislative Assembly, as they were awaiting the results of the presidential and general elections held yesterday, Sunday, throughout the country.

Although it was not known whether anyone was injured, pistol shots and explosions of home-made devices were heard during the confrontations. Defense Force members who had formed a cordon around the palace early in the evening to keep the groups out withdrew inside the palace and closed the doors.

The combatants have begun a number of disturbances, overturning automobiles and stoning business establishments near the palace.

Clash at Legislative Palace

PA080217 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0151 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Panama City, 7 May (ACAN-EFE) -- At least one person was killed today as rival political factions clashed in downtown Panama City. Panama National Radio announced that Jose Angel Gutierrez Vega died in the clashes at the Legislative Palace, the headquarters of the National Vote Counting Board. Inside the palace, however, it was claimed that four people had been killed.

The government radio station reported that 20 people were wounded in the clashes.

Shortly before 2100 (0200 GMT), scattered shots were still being heard in the area, while members of the Defense Forces and the police are heading toward the area to control the situation.

Officials, Newsmen Leave Palace

PA080524 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0511 GMT 8 May 84

[Excerpt] Panama City, 7 May (ACAN-EFE) -- The two main political coalitions that participated in the elections on Sunday tonight issued individual statements deploring the disturbances near the Legislative Palace in this capital that left 1 dead and 32 injured.

The Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADO), led by Arnulfo Arias Madrid, an 83-year-old physician, deplored "the physical violence," stating that it was the result "of the political coercion to which the public officials and the Panamanian people in general have been subjected, and of the highly irregular manner in which the electoral process is being managed and delayed."

Through spokesman Bolivar Marquez, the National Democratic Union (UNADE) also deplored the disturbances, indicating that it was "saddened by the occurrences, because we have made prudent efforts to ensure that these elections take place normally."

The spokesman said that the followers of opposition candidate Arnulfo Arias Madrid who surrounded the Legislative Palace "were overexcited." However, he added: "That is not the most important thing; what is important is that they are playing with violence, and that is not a game."

Shortly before 2200 (0300 GMT), the officials of the Electoral Tribunal and the National Vote Counting Board, newsmen and members of the public who were observing the vote count were able to leave the Legislative Palace.

Cars Burned

PA08C330 Paris AFP in Spanish 0310 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Panama City, 7 May (AFP) -- At least one person was killed and 15 injured in violent disturbances that broke out tonight outside the Legislative Palace in Panama City, where the results of yesterday's presidential elections are being tallied.

Julio Gonzalez, 27, was killed as a result of the shooting. He was hit in the groin by a bullet, according to some of his companions.

During a tour of the area where the incidents occurred, AFP confirmed that shooting could still be heard at 2100 [0200 GMT] and that many bonfires had been lit and several cars were on fire in the streets of that area.

Nevertheless, there was absolute calm in other areas of Panama City.

According to an official report issued by the Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADO), the incidents broke out when "gangs from the Democratic Revolutionary Party (pro-Torrijos PRD) fired indiscriminately on the followers of opposition candidate Arnulfo Arias Madrid" when the National Vote Counting Board was just beginning to tally the voting results. So far there has been no official report on the results of the voting.

4 Reported Dead, 30 Injured

PA080400 Paris AFP in Spanish 0347 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Panama City, 7 May (AFP) -- Four people have been killed in the violence that took place in the early evening in front of the Legislative Palace, headquarters of the National Vote Counting Board for the elections held yesterday in Panama.

In addition, the Santo Tomas and Social Security Hospitals confirmed to AFP that they have treated some 30 people for injuries that were sustained in the violence resulting from confrontations between supporters of government candidate Nicolas Ardito and opposition candidate Arnulfo Arias, the strongest presidential candidates.

The armed forces have reported that they are trying to locate snipers who have taken positions in the area around the Legislative Palace, and to control the outbreak of violence.

The Vote Counting Board decided to suspend the count for tonight pending normalization of the situation around the building, although it has not yet announced any results.

11 Treated for Wounds

PA080547 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0541 GMT 8 May 84

[Excerpts] Panama City, 8 May -- (ACAN) Eleven persons received bullet wounds and 13 others sustained bruises of various kinds in the disturbances that took place tonight in the downtown areas of the city as a result of a confrontation between rival political groups.

They were all treated at the Santo Tomas Hospital in this capital and none of them appears to be in serious condition.

Arias Announces Protest March

PA081229 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 May 84 p 1 A

[Text] The Democratic Opposition Alliance has asked its sympathizers to meet today at 1500 at their headquarters on Balboa Avenue. They will march before the Electoral Tribunal to protest the fraud and violence that have been unleashed in recent days. Dr Ricardo Arias Calderon announced this march before hundreds of indignant citizens who were protesting the violence that officialism unleashed yesterday afternoon.

COSTA RICA

MONGE SWEARS IN NEW ECONOMIC OFFICIALS

PA071435 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 26 Apr 84 p 3

[Text] President Luis Alberto Monge yesterday swore in Doctor Federico Vargas Peralta as the new minister counselor on the foreign debt at a meeting of the government council. Vargas was finance minister for the first 2 years of this government term. Vargas Peralta replaces Rodolfo Silva, who resigned 2 months ago to take up a post at the IDB in Washington, D.C. Vargas will have his office at the Presidential Palace. He will be in charge of everything concerning the country's external debt and its renegotiation.

Carlos Herrera Amighetti was sworn in as the new deputy economy minister, replacing Odalier Villalobos, who was appointed minister. Villalobos replaced Marco A. Lopez, executive president of the Central Bank, filling the vacancy left by Carlos Manuel Castillo. The new deputy minister is a 30-year-old economist who graduated from the University of Costa Rica. He requested leave from the Central Bank, where he holds a high-level post.

ARDE COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK DISMANTLED

PA042016 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 26 Apr 84 p 14

[Excerpts] (ANSA, AP, and DPA, correspondent and editorial staff) -- With a number of unexpected blows that began the night before last in the offices of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE) in San Jose, and culminated yesterday in San Carlos, the national authorities dismantled the communications network of that organization, which is fighting the so-called communist regime led by the nine commanders in Managua.

A detachment of the Intelligence and Security Directorate, DIS, led by Major Jimenez, yesterday carried out an operation in San Carlos canton. During the operation, two radio transmitting stations and four wireless communications facilities, all of them installed and operating, were seized.

ARDE's Communications

Deputy Public Security Minister Johnny Campos yesterday said that he had presented a lengthy report to the Government Council on his ministry's recent actions. He also described "the actions carried out against ARDE throughout the national territory" to journalists.

According to the deputy minister, "ARDE has violated the right to asylum in Costa Rica." He added: "We seized their plans, maps, communications equipment and two weapons." The deputy minister did not disclose any details about the operation carried out in San Carlos.

The San Carlos Operation

Our correspondent in Ciudad Quesada, Jose Angel Moya -- who was mistreated by DIS authorities who tried to seize his camera so he could not take any pictures "for reasons of national security" -- reports that in the morning Maj Rodolfo Jimenez' forces seized two radio transmitting facilities that had been operating on the 2-meter band, and dismantled the transmission towers in Alto de Lajas, about 8 km before Ciudad Quesada.

ARDE's Reaction

"Apparently it is very hard to fight for democracy here," ARDE spokesman Dr Mauricio Mendieta said in referring to the raid carried out on the ARDE offices between 1800 and 1900 the night before last. "Freedom has a price, which we are paying with huge sacrifices. During this raid, they not only seized a large number of political documents -- which we are entitled to have without violating Costa Rica's neutrality or our status as exiles -- but they also imprisoned 10 of our people, including Popo Chamorro, Carlos Prado, and several other young men. This discourages us and makes us reflect on how hard it is to fight for freedom, not only that of Nicaragua -- which has been invaded by communists from the USSR, Cuba, Hungary, the GDR, and many other satellite countries -- but that of Central America as a whole, which naturally includes Costa Rica."

Government Discovers Sandinist Espionage Network

The government also announced yesterday that it had discovered "a Sandinist espionage network in Costa Rica." This was discussed at a regular Government Council session, Deputy Minister Campos explained. He added that "a woman has been expelled because it was confirmed that she had been spying for the Nicaraguans."

LA NACION CRITICIZES NICARAGUA POLICY

PA070030 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 29 Apr 84 p 14A

[Editorial: "The 'Reality' of Deputy Minister Campos"]

[Text] Often when a government begins to have difficulties with public opinion as reflected in the news media that government fabricates a reality of its own. This was the former administration's most characteristic trait -- so much so that its own reality became a negation of true reality. We are very much afraid that Deputy Public Security Minister Johnny Campos was announcing a similar case of split personality in his answer to our Friday editorial on the ups and downs over the proclamation of neutrality.

If Deputy Minister Campos were more alert, he would realize that the press and public opinion -- which have supported President Monge so much during the first 18 months of his government, particularly regarding foreign policy -- have almost unanimously become aware of a change in that foreign policy, chiefly regarding Nicaragua. This change is disconcerting, ambiguous, and contradictory. The coincidence of views of the news media did not occur by accident, nor was it due to any political passion. This by itself shows that neither the proclamation of neutrality nor the foreign policy inspired by that document are solving the problems the Sandinist regime constantly and deliberately presents to us for reasons the government seems determined to ignore.

This foreign policy is reflected in the country's domestic and foreign security policies. out of the declaration's implied ambiguity and its juridical inconsistency, stressed by three foreign ministers, two interpretations have appeared within the government regarding the declaration's scope and nature. One is the Security Ministry's, which appears to be pacifying the Nicaraguan regime; the other is the Government Ministry's, which seems to stress that neutrality does not imply impartiality or concessions of an ideological nature.

The deputy security minister must admit, in all sincerity, that this is the general impression in the country at present. The latest events reflect this marked discrepancy with sufficient faithfulness.

THE NEW YORK TIMES report of CIA bribes to high officials of this administration immediately unleashed a witch hunt against political activities in our country by the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE -- activities which are not paralleled by similar operations of its clandestine counterpart. Meanwhile, Deputy Minister Campos himself admits that some of the gunboats unloaded at Caldera succeeded in passing through Penas Blancas for Managua. He also admitted that he made a mistake in expelling the public head of an alleged "Sandinist" spy network without touching the rest of the organization.

In an operation paralleling the expeditious measures against ARDE -- raids, documents, and communications equipment seizures, and even detentions -- a campaign has been mounted in Managua, publicly begun by one of the highest Nicaraguan Government officials, against Deputy Government Minister Enrique Chacon. This campaign reflects the notion disseminated by THE NEW YORK TIMES and ABC Television in the United States.

We Costa Ricans have to put two and two together and draw conclusions from all the efforts to hide behind the neutrality proclamation. If the commanders are not satisfied with timely explanations and strong security measures -- for the time being, against anti-Sandinists, basically -- and demand and threaten in ever-more-deafening tones, we will have to see what we can do -- what alternatives are left to us other than to kneel to their whims and arrogance. The truth is that events and circumstances indicate that the proclamation of neutrality, as announced, was a mistake -- a mistake that is closing rather than opening doors; a mistake that may leave us absolutely defenseless if the commanders decide to come to blows. All this, however, can be discussed. But what Deputy Minister Campos denies is evident: There are two factions in the Government of Costa Rica regarding the Nicaraguan issue.

EL SALVADOR

PDC'S NAPOLEON DUARTE CLAIMS ELECTION VICTORY

PA071313 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0915 GMT 7 May 84

[By Carlos Rodolfo Mobil]

[Text] San Salvador, 7 May (ACAN-EFE) -- Christian Democratic candidate Jose Napoleon Duarte this morning declared himself the winner of Sunday's presidential elections, in which he participated against the ultrarightist leader Roberto D'Aubuisson, candidate for the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA).

Duarte offered a press conference at dawn today at his party's headquarters and declared himself -- amidst the cheers of dozens of followers and mariachi music -- "winner of the elections."

"The Salvadoran people have defeated those who tried to impose their will at the last minute," Duarte said, in a clear reference to ARENA.

"We believe we have won the elections with more than 700,000 votes," the Christian Democratic candidate said, adding optimistically that in the end he will defeat his opponent "by more than 125,000 votes." Duarte asserted that, with more than 40 percent of the votes counted, he has received 54.9 percent of the votes, against D'Aubuisson's 46.1 percent. The two candidates participated in the second electoral round after receiving the largest number of votes during the first round, last 25 March. Duarte received 549,727 votes during the first round (43.41 percent) and D'Aubuisson received 376,917.

The Christian Democratic leader asserted that ARENA "tried to steal his victory by every possible means," and charged them with "multiple maneuvers" to achieve this fraud. However, he added, "now is not the time to feel hate."

He added that his opponent "must admit our victory" and predicted that his party "will defend the victory" because "it is the Salvadoran people's victory."

ARENA has yet to issue a statement regarding the vote count. D'Aubuisson's whereabouts were unknown at dawn. It has been learned that ARENA has presented some charges against the Christian Democratic Party.

Duarte, who asserted that "now no one will be able to usurp power," reiterated his proposal to establish a dialogue with the guerrilla groups. However, he was quite clear when saying: "We will not negotiate with rifles on the table."

"We will create a climate of security. There will be no more terror. We will counter the death squads and abuse of authority. We will create political space for all the sectors of the country." These were some of the proposals by Duarte, who asserted that he is the new president of the smallest Central American country.

Claims 55 Percent of Vote

PA071943 Paris AFP in Spanish 1851 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] San Salvador, 7 May (AFP) -- Jose Napoleon Duarte, presidential candidate of the Christian Democratic Party, PDC, reaffirmed his triumph in the elections as he reported his party's results with 94 percent of the votes having been counted. Duarte said he obtained 55 percent of the vote.

So far, the PDC vote count totals 711,750 votes for Duarte compared to 594,717 for Roberto D'Aubuisson of the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, thus giving Duarte 55 percent of the vote and D'Aubuisson 45 percent. A total of 1,306,467 votes have been tallied so far, according to the figures cited by Duarte in his second news conference since yesterday, in which he has proclaimed himself the president-elect of El Salvador.

Meanwhile, the Central Electoral Council (CCE) has not released any preliminary report on the electoral results. However, CCE spokesmen have reported that the vote count has begun.

D'Aubuisson Rejects Claim

PA072101 Paris AFP in Spanish 2036 GMT 7 May 84

[By Carlos Samayoa]

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 7 May (AFP) -- Roberto D'Aubuisson, presidential candidate for the ultrarightist Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA), has refused to believe the figures presented by the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], while Jose Napoleon Duarte has proclaimed himself president-elect of El Salvador for the second time in less than 12 hours.

D'Aubuisson has rejected Duarte's self-proclamation, arguing that the difference in favor of the Christian Democratic candidate is "minimal, because it consists of only 5,200 votes." Despite his refusal to accept the PDC figures, D'Aubuisson said that he will respect the final results released by the Central Electoral Council, even if they are not in his favor. He added that it was not possible to vote in 35 municipalities because of the armed activity of the guerrillas, whom he considers to be his enemies.

D'Aubuisson said that according to his figures, with 56 municipalities remaining to be counted, ARENA won in 9 of El Salvador's 14 departments. He warned, however, that whichever of the two candidates is elected, he will not be able to ignore the fact that his rival is the representative of a real force, since the advantage "will be minimal."

"I do not believe that Duarte will ignore the Salvadoran Popular Unity, any more than I will ignore the PDC if I am elected," the rightist leader said.

ANTICOMMUNIST ARMY RELEASES ELECTION COMMUNIQUE

PA052200 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 May 84

[By Reno Hurtado]

[Text] Friends of Radio Sonora, the location of a communique released by the ESA [Secret Anticommunist Army] was provided us in an anonymous telephone call. The communique reads as follows:

El Salvador, 4 May 1984

The Party of National Liberation, PLN, and its armed branch, the ESA, on the eve of the second round of the current electoral process inform the Salvadoran people that:

1. The ESA depends upon no specific participation in the elections by any political party, because the ESA is a political-military organization that follows the guidelines of its own party, the PLN. Therefore, our organization will continue its struggle against communism, corruption, and foreign intervention, whether Soviet or Gringo, no matter what party wins the elections.

2. The ESA will watch the 6 May elections closely and hopes that the planned disorders of 25 March will not be repeated. We hope that the Salvadoran people will not be made a mockery again, because if we do detect any disorder or irregularity our army will act against those who are responsible. Thus, we warn all who are waiting for the chance to betray our people that they will be persecuted until our score is settled. We warn the government to respect the elections, no matter who wins, for otherwise it will be betraying the will of the Salvadoran people.

3. Our organization will watch to ensure that the governmental platform of the elected party is fulfilled, and the level of our military actions will relate directly to the success with which that platform is fulfilled and to the degree to which the new government continues the struggle against the FMLN communists.

4. We strongly oppose the further exile of military men, and demand from the future government that those who were forced to leave the country in accordance with orders issued by the Gringos be permitted to return immediately.

5. We call upon the Armed Forces to give up their absurd apolitical and neutral stance toward the electoral process, because man is a political being by nature, the society in which we live is based upon political changes that occur, and the Armed Forces, as a part of society, actively participate in the changes that are taking place. Thus, they cannot claim to be apolitical, for, if true, there would be reason for armed forces to exist.

6. In conclusion, we call upon the Salvadoran people to vote on 6 May and fulfill one of the principles of democracy. With our vote, we will all be participating in the anticommunist struggle.

We fought yesterday, today, tomorrow, and always.

[Signed] Commander Aquiles Baires, PLN Secretary General and ESA Commander in Chief;

Commander Jore Palomo, Chief of the ESA Military Commission;

Commander Adolfo Torres, Chief to the PLN Political Commission

FMLN CLAIMS NO VOTING IN 94 MUNICIPALITIES

PA080243 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Statements made by the criminal D'Aubuisson confirm what we have been saying, that the electoral farce was not carried out in more than 35 Salvadoran municipalities. According to D'Aubuisson, ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] won in 118 municipalities and Duarte's party won in 52 municipalities, totaling 170 municipalities. If we deduct this from the total of 261 municipalities in El Salvador, our reports are confirmed: According to our latest reports from Chalatenango, where no electoral farce was held in 32 municipalities, we have so far confirmed that no electoral farce was held in 94 [as heard] Salvadoran municipalities. We repeat, 94 Salvadoran municipalities did not stage an electoral farce, either because they are under the control of the FMLN, there was fighting, or the voting was not planned because the Army did not feel capable of militarily guaranteeing the elections for the Gringos.

ARENA SEEKS INVESTIGATION OF HELMS CHARGES

PA060110 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 5 May 84 pp 4, 22

[Excerpt] Colonel Juan Antonio Martinez Varela, an assembly deputy, has said that ARENA is asking the Legislative Assembly to appoint a special commission to investigate the letter of charges sent to President Reagan by Senator Jesse Helms. In his letter, the deputy adds, Senator Helms requests the removal of Ambassador Pickering for interference in the country's political affairs and in the electoral process that is currently under way. Senator Helms also mentions the veto applied against Decree 74, which deals with amendments to the temporary electoral law, indicating that Ambassador Pickering had something to do with this veto by putting pressure on President Magana.

"These facts," Deputy Martinez Varela said, "were included in the request we sent, which states: 'Acts of this nature discredit the electoral process that is to be held on 6 May and that is guaranteed under Title I, Chapter III of our current Constitution, and represent serious damage to our national sovereignty. With all respect, we come before this assembly to request that a special commission be appointed to investigate those charges and to clarify Ambassador Pickering's participation in the charged facts and President Magana's involvement in them.'"

FARABUNDO MARTI: FMLN REPORTS HONDURAN ARMY ATTACK

PA060254 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 6 May 84

[Excerpts] Attention, Salvadoran people: We call for the attention of national and foreign reporters who are in our country at the moment.

We also call for the attention of political observers who are attending the second round of the elections.

This morning, a few hours ago, Honduran troops opened fire on the Salvadoran village of Ojo de Agua, in Chalatenango Department. We denounce this new provocation by the Honduran Army, which has taken place only a few hours before the second round of the electoral fraud, both here and abroad.

This morning, Honduran troops opened machinegun fire from the positions they maintain in Calpules, in Honduran territory, near our border. The attack took place between 1030 and 1100 today. We condemn this cowardly provocation against our FMLN and the Salvadoran people by reactionary sectors of the Honduran Army, who unconditionally obey the orders of U.S. officers.

REPORTAGE ON ARMY-REBEL MILITARY ACTIVITY

Army Deploys to Cabanas

PA052125 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 4 May 84 pp 2, 30

[Text] Armed Forces spokesmen have reported that troops of various garrisons are in control of both the urban and rural sectors of Ilobasco, Tejutepeque, Jutiapa, and other areas. All of these towns were harassed by FMLN-FDR extremists over the weekend.

Troops from the garrisons in Cojutepeque and Sensuntepeque, supported by artillery, are taking part in operations throughout Cabanas Department to search for the strongholds used by extremists who, according to the military authorities, planned to seize Ilobasco on Saturday.

Special troops are in control of and are maintaining surveillance over the hydroelectric plants at Cerron Grande and Chorrera del Guayabo, which are constantly being threatened by periodic approaches by subversive columns, which are repelled by the troops to preserve the security of the installations.

While the troops from Sensuntepeque and Cojutepeque are taking part in the searches in Cabanas Department to guarantee the safety of its inhabitants, other military units are moving into Chalatenango, Cuscatlan, San Miguel, Morazan, La Union, and Usulutan Departments in counterinsurgency maneuvers that fall within the Armed Forces' precautionary plans against activities by the FMLN-FDR extremists, Armed Forces spokesmen have said.

Venceremos: East Loses Power

PA060133 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 6 May 84

[Text] Today, 5 May, members of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade [BRAZ] took control of stretches of the Inter-American, military, and Coastal Highways in eastern El Salvador.

It has also been reported that clashes took place for several hours between FMLN forces and Atonal Battalion troops on the Inter-American Highway. We will release further reports on these clashes in future broadcasts.

In addition, it has been reported that BRAZ sappers blew up electricity towers near Mercedes Umana last night, leaving the entire eastern part of El Salvador without power.

FMLN Reports 22 Army Casualties

PA060228 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 6 May 84

[Text] Today, 5 May, our vanguard units ambushed a company belonging to the 5th Infantry Brigade's Giboa Battalion near La Ceiba, on the road leading from Tecoluca to San Vicente.

In this operation, we inflicted eight dead on the Giboa Battalion, including one cadet, and wounded seven of the enemy, including another cadet. We also inflicted casualties, two dead and five wounded, on Tecoluca's National Guard. In sum, we inflicted 22 casualties on the enemy. We regret that we lost one heroic combatant.

Venceremos: Powerlines Sabotaged

PA062120 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1400 GMT 6 May 84

[Text] Information from the country's central area indicates that yesterday FMLN forces blew up 10 of the most important high-tension towers that carry lines supplying energy to San Salvador and population centers in the central area. This operation lasted from 2100 to 2400.

As a result of this coordinated sabotage, the powerlines from Cerron Grande to Nejapa, from the geothermal plant to Nejapa, from Nejapa to the Miravalles substation, from Nejapa to the Agua Caliente substation, and from the 5 November and 15 September Dams to Agua Caliente of Soyapango were damaged.

This information was sent by Commanders Fernandez and Goyo from the Modesto Ramirez Central Front. As a result of this action, several departments are without power.

FMLN Controls Highways

PA061526 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1400 GMT 6 May 84

[Text] Here is another military report. Members of the FMLN's Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade [BRAZ] are currently exercising total control over large stretches of the Pan-American Highway, the Coastal Highway, and the military road. Traffic to the eastern part of the country has been brought to a standstill because of the total control that the BRAZ is exercising over large stretches of these strategic highways.

Attention, owners of public transportation; attention, drivers of private cars: We urge you not to drive on any of the main highways or secondary roads. We repeat: Do not drive on the main highways or secondary roads.

Large clashes are currently under way in the areas of Jucuapa and Chinameca in Usulutan Department. Radio Venceremos will be reporting the details of these clashes to the people of El Salvador and the peoples of the world who are listening.

We have just received another military report. Fighting is currently going on in La Union Department. Attention: At this very moment fierce clashes are under way in the northern part of La Union Department. Stay tuned for more information on these struggles that the Salvadoran workers and the Salvadoran people are currently waging in northern La Union Department, confronting the military plans of U.S. imperialism.

COPREFA on Recent Clashes

PA072156 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1812 GMT 7 May 84

[Report issued by the Salvadoran Armed Forces Press Committee, COPREFA; date and place not given; monitored in progress]

[Text] Soldiers from the Jiboa Battalion and members of the National Guard clashed with terrorist columns near the Agua Caliente River, Tecoluca municipality, in the central Department of San Vicente. As a result, eight extremists were killed and an undetermined number were wounded. In addition, the Army confiscated five AR-15 rifles, one M-16 rifle, one Motorola radio, and a large quantity of ammunition. The Army suffered four dead and two wounded.

In addition, members of the 5th Brigade's Jose Simeon Canas Battalion engaged in combat with the extremists near the town of San Ildelfonso in San Vicente. They killed four of the extremists and seized a rocket launcher and an M-16 rifle.

In another quarter, troops of the Cuscatlan Battalion surprised an extremist column near Las Marias canton in Chinameca, San Miguel, killing three extremists and seizing an FAL rifle. The Armed Forces sustained no casualties in this action.

FMLN on 6 May Casualties

PA080254 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Here is a report on the FMLN's recovery of weapons in eastern El Salvador on 6 May 1984. FMLN units, in actions against the puppet forces and the imperialist electoral farce, recovered 24 weapons: 2 rifles during the takeover of Nueva Granada, 12 rifles in the fighting in San Miguel from the incompetent Domingo Monterrosa's troops, and 10 rifles in the ambush against the Arce Battalion. This makes a total of 24 rifles recovered from the dictatorship's troops in eastern El Salvador. During the fighting between the FMLN and troops defending the interests of the wealthy oligarchs, we also inflicted 53 casualties in the eastern area, including a number of dead.

GUATEMALA

OUSTED JUSTICE CITES VIOLATIONS BY AUTHORITIES

PA050334 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 4 May 84

[Excerpt] At noon today, when the new chief justice of the Supreme Court was sworn into the position previously held by Ricardo Sagastume Vidaurre, a series of facts came to light that caused concern among the magistrates present, the result of a series of statements made by Sagastume Vidaurre regarding the breaking of existing laws by state officials, members of the Armed Forces, and the National Police.

According to statements made at the court by the former chief justice of the Supreme Court, he sent a letter to the head of state last Tuesday explaining the serious violations of existing laws, mostly regarding arrests by policemen without prior orders from a judge, as well as actions carried out by members of the Armed Forces, who are totally unaware of the functions and duties of a Supreme Court head and who have overstepped the boundaries of their duties.

Finally, Sagastume Vidaurre told the press that the National Police had prevented the collection of funds by the Supreme Court and suspended [words indistinct] -- the court's main source of income -- used to maintain operations.

Furthermore, Sagastume Vidaurre said that the penitentiary authorities in the country are totally incompetent. He said that these persons are not even concerned about fulfilling their duties, placing the work done by our country's magistrates in doubt. It is because of this that Sagastume thinks he was dismissed by the head of state.

MEJIA ON SAGASTUME REMOVAL, NEW CHIEF JUSTICE

PA050336 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 4 May 84

[Text] Guatemalan Head of State Oscar Mejia Victores was interviewed this morning at the National Palace, where he administered the oath of office to Tomas Baudilio Navarro, the new chief justice of the Supreme Court. During the interview, Mejia Victores stated that Sagastume was removed to make the court more dynamic. He made absolutely no mention of the letter that ousted Justice Sagastume sent to him.

[Begin Mejia Victores recording] The administration, particularly the system of the administration of justice, needs to be more dynamic. I also believe that other attorneys, such as Tomas Baudilio Navaro, must be given opportunities. Besides, Navarro is a prestigious criminal lawyer of the Guatemalan legal community. [end recording]

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON CONTADORA MEETING

PA041231 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 3 May 84 p 4

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Andrade Diaz-Duran has said that for Guatemala the reports of the Contadora Group meeting are quite complete and beneficial to our country. Conversely, for Nicaragua, it has been learned unofficially from comments by Nicaraguan delegates that the meeting's reports were not at all positive; Nicaragua disagrees with the Group's recommendation that Nicaragua slow down its military buildup, citing as a reason the U.S. threat against it. Obviously, the foreign minister said, this was not heard during a meeting, but learned unofficially.

Regarding the report of the commission on peace and security in Central America, the Contadora Group reiterated the recommendation for a general agreement advocating the withdrawal of foreign advisers from the area. Although differences regarding the most appropriate means to do this were expressed, the commission carefully discussed the problems resulting from the arms buildup and gathered basic information on the levels of military development in the Central American countries. The commission also discussed the means to be used in conducting a military inventory in the area, and this is what Nicaragua did not like.

The foreign minister said that his report in one of the commissions achieved a consensus agreement in principle to prevent the use of territories in the area by rebel forces against neighboring countries, in order to prevent destabilization, sabotage, and terrorist operations, and thus avoid border incidents.

The foreign minister said that the sixth Contadora Group meeting, which was attended by the Central American foreign ministers, was fruitful and very interesting because international delegations were represented there.

MEXICAN ENVOY ANNOUNCES PROBE OF BORDER INCIDENT

PA041213 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Brigadier General Rafael Macedo, the Mexican ambassador to Guatemala, today said that his government is investigating the incident that took place last Monday in Mexican territory near the Guatemalan border which left a toll of six to eight dead and several injured among the Guatemalan refugees in the Mexican municipality of Trinitarias.

The diplomat said that information available to his government indicates that some 200 men in uniform entered Mexico from Guatemala carrying automatic weapons with which they attacked the refugees.

The incident took place shortly after the Mexican Government had announced that the Guatemalan refugees currently in camps near the border would be relocated to other areas in Mexican territory.

The Guatemalan Government last night issued a communique blaming Guatemalan guerrillas operating in northwestern Guatemala for the incident. Meanwhile, Guatemalan Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade has said that the Guatemalan Government regrets this isolated incident, which he hoped will not hamper the current good relations between the two countries.

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA REQUESTS URGENT FRENCH AID ON MINES

PA081141 Paris AFP in Spanish 0452 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] Managua, 7 May (AFP) -- Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, today issued an urgent call to the French Government to provide technical and material aid to "sweep" the mined Nicaraguan ports.

Ortega presented his request to Regis Debray, French President Francois Mitterrand's adviser, with whom he met tonight at the Cesar Augusto Silva Conventions Center.

Commander Ortega explained to Debray the dramatic situation which has prevailed in the country since the CIA started mining its ports last March, an official spokesman said.

A month ago the French Government announced its willingness to help sweep Nicaraguan territorial waters for mines, which have already damaged or sunk eleven ships, including five international merchant ships.

The private Ortega-Debray meeting also included Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto and Deputy Defense Minister Joaquin Cuadra.

Debray will leave tomorrow for France after staying a week in Nicaragua on an information tour. His visit was discreet, but Sandinist news media termed it highly important, not only because of the French offer to sweep the mines but also because of France's support for peace initiatives in Central America.

NOTE TO IMCO DENOUNCES U.S. MINING OF HARBORS

PA080131 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 May 84

[Communique issued by the Information and Press Directorate of the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry in Managua on 7 May 1984]

[Text] Tomorrow, Tuesday, 8 May 1984, the Nicaraguan government will present a note to the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization [IMCO] denouncing the mining of its harbors. The IMCO, which is based in London, is a UN technical organization with the function of regulating international maritime traffic.

The note, addressed to IMCO Secretary General Chandrika Srivastava and signed by Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockmen, states that since March of this year the U.S. Government, acting through the Central Intelligence Agency, has mined the major Nicaraguan harbors on the Pacific and Atlantic, in an action that is unprecedented in the campaign of aggression against Nicaragua, and one that consequently exacerbates the climate of tension in the Central American region.

The Nicaraguan Government has confirmed the presence of mines in the ports of Corinto, Puerto Sandino and El Bluff and suspects that mines have also been planted in adjacent areas. Ships navigating these waters are exposed to great danger as a result of the presence of those mines. In fact, there have already been several incidents, leading to the loss of human lives and serious damage to both local and foreign vessels.

These actions constitute a flagrant violation of the underlying principles of the IMCO Convention, which states in Article 1, Paragraph B, that one of the organization's purposes is to encourage the elimination of unnecessary discriminatory and restrictive measures applied by governments to international commercial navigation.

In addition, this is a violation of basic principles of international law contained in the UN Charter and other international legal instruments, especially the right of free navigation and international trade, as well as other universally accepted principles.

In this situation of danger to free international navigation, the Nicaraguan Government denounces, to the IMCO, the illegal conduct of the United States, and hopes to obtain international cooperation to deactivate those mines, in order to safeguard security, lives and property, as well as to protect the marine environment.

Finally, Mr Secretary General, I would like to point out to you the mining of the harbors harms not only Nicaragua, but seriously endangers international maritime traffic in the region, since one cannot rule out the possibility that some of the mines may be pulled outside of our waters by underwater currents.

In consideration of this, the Nicaraguan Government is proceeding to alert the international community, while at the same time holding the U.S. Government responsible for any loss of lives or property damage that may ensue.

This note will be delivered to the IMCO secretary general tomorrow and the charge will be made within the context of the International Conference on Responsibility and Indemnization for Damages to Maritime Transport Caused by Certain Substances, which is being held in London from 30 April to 25 May 1984.

COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES ATTACK FROM COSTA RICA

PA080041 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 May 84

[Text] A new counterrevolutionary attack from Costa Rica in the area of Palo de Arco, in the jurisdiction of San Carlos, was repelled early today by Sandinist People's Army [EPS] forces, who inflicted 15 casualties on the attackers, including a mercenary of Panamanian origin. This official information was supplied by Sub-Commander Roberto Sanchez, chief of information at the Defense Ministry, who said that at approximately 0445 today some 100 mercenaries crossed the Nicaraguan border from Costa Rica and attacked the border town of Palo de Arco, 17 km southeast of San Carlos.

As a result of this counterrevolutionary and mercenary attack, four Nicaraguan civilians -- two children of 4 and 7 years of age, and two adults -- were killed. The EPS troops repelled the attack, killing 15 of the attackers, who fled in disarray toward Costa Rica in view of the revolutionary gunfire. In their flight, the counterrevolutionaries abandoned their dead and their arms, which included 7 M-14 rifles, 6 [word inistinct] 1 rocket launcher, 1 grenade launcher, 1 machinegun, 1 FAL rifle, 13 grenades, communications equipment, and other war supplies.

Included among the dead was mercenary Fermin Diaz Rivera, alias La Cobra, a Panamanian. One important feature of this attack on Nicaragua was that the 100 counterrevolutionaries who violated the border post, which is shared with Costa Rica, passed only 500 meters from a guard post manned by the Costa Rican Rural Police and this Costa Rican security corps watched them pass by and did nothing.

FOREIGN MINISTRY PROTESTS SHELLING TO HONDURAS

PA080054 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Note addressed by Nicaraguan Foreign Affairs Minister Miguel D'Escoto to Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica on 7 May 1984 -- read by announcer]

[Text] Mr Minister: I address you on this occasion to refer to the following:

At 0630 on 6 May a group of Honduran Army troops, the number of which was not determined, harassed the (Nazurita) observation post, located 4 km northwest of Somotillo, with artillery fire. Fortunately, no casualties or damage were reported.

Considering these facts, the Nicaraguan Government presents its most energetic and formal protest of this new attack on our national sovereignty. This once again confirms the lack of willingness on the part of the Honduran Government to find formulas for peaceful coexistence that would facilitate the peace efforts of the Contadora Group and restore the supremacy of law in the region, which has been so gravely affected by the warlike attitude of the Honduran authorities, in accordance with the role assigned to them by the North American administration in its plans to destabilize and destroy the people's Sandinist revolution.

I take this opportunity to reiterate to you my highest esteem.

D'ESCOTO DISCUSSES COSTA RICA INCIDENT, PEACE

PA050250 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 4 May 84

[Press conference given by Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman at the Foreign Ministry in Managua; questioners unidentified; intercepted in progress -- live]

[Excerpts] [D'Escoto] ...in general the Nicaraguan foreign policy that might interest you.

Regarding the recent incident, the alleged incident that occurred yesterday at Penas Blancas on the border with Costa Rica, the truth is that this is a case of self-inflicted attack, if we can describe it with those words. What happened was that some people in Costa Rican territory fired mortars and artillery on Costa Rican territory. At no time was there any kind of incident involving the counterrevolutionaries armed and financed by the CIA in that area and members of the Costa Rican Rural Guard or anyone else. On hearing the reports we concluded that everything was very well orchestrated from within Costa Rica. There are some people who are interested in poking the fire and who have created an image of Nicaragua as an aggressive country, in an attempt to increase the tension between Nicaragua and Costa Rica. For some time now thousands of mercenaries, CIA agents who are members of the so-called ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance], have been operating from within Costa Rica. This has resulted in the border area becoming a combat zone on several occasions.

Here we are facing the interests of a third nation, a world power interested in intensifying the tension already created by their own policy in Costa Rica, through their use of Costa Rican territory as a base for aggressions and through their involvement and the involvement of persons in the Costa Rican Government with the CIA's aggressive plans. We believe that these persons are operating on the fringe and against President Monge's political will and Costa Rica's declared neutrality.

Yesterday's incident occurred completely within Costa Rican territory, and it was intended to create in Costa Rica very specific pressure on the president so that he will accept military aid offered by the United States. The United States is pressuring for this military aid to be accepted. Yesterday's incident had just been reported when the U.S. ambassador to Costa Rica began to give it his close attention and said that the United States is willing to give the military aid if requested by Costa Rica. The truth is that one of the objectives of the Reagan administration is to turn Costa Rica into another Honduras. This worries us because we wish to maintain the best possible relations with the people and Government of Costa Rica.

Yesterday, however, in view of the seriousness of this incident in which they attempted to involve Nicaragua -- they tried to slander Nicaragua by accusing it of something nonexistent -- we contacted Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez and told him that we were willing to hold immediate talks with him. Commander Daniel Ortega also spoke to President Monge, and we contacted some Contadora officials to request the mediation of the Contadora Group, either through the four foreign ministers or their delegates, to help solve the problem and investigate what really happened.

Only a few minutes ago I spoke once again with Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez, and he reiterated that he is willing to meet with me but that he would prefer to meet before a delegation from the Contadora Group. As far as we are concerned, we are willing to meet alone or in the presence of Contadora representatives.

[Question indistinct]

[D'Escoto] Probably, probably even in the government but more so in other sectors. All those agents have been bought by the CIA. Even reporters are involved. As I said a few minutes ago, I just spoke to the foreign minister, and I did so because I had just heard something on the radio that was not true. They mentioned something about an alleged invasion coming from I do not know where and that Sandinist troops were entering Costa Rican territory.

What I do wish to say, and this is important, is that the political will of our governments regarding the relations that should exist between the two nations is being expressed by President Monge and Commander Daniel Ortega, as well as by the foreign ministers of the two countries. This political will is that we must not allow alien interests from placing us in situations that would only lead to regrettable situations for the two countries.

[D'Escoto in English] Well, there is no doubt that the situation is quite critical. I would say that the situation is compounded by the fact that the press in Costa Rica, both written as well as electronic media, are really fanning the fire in an effort to create a sort of panic. I just talked on the telephone a few minutes ago, before coming into this room, with the Costa Rican foreign minister, and he he commenting on what the press is doing. He told me that [passage indistinct]. It is my feeling that there is no [words indistinct] possibility of breaking diplomatic relations or [words indistinct]. We were just talking about a possibility of having a meeting [passage indistinct]. [end English]

[Question indistinct]

[D'Escoto] First of all, I was not aware of such a statement. Evidently Nicaragua is the country that has supported the Contadora Group verbally and has done the most in support of the Contadora Group efforts. As I said before, Nicaragua is the only country that has, to date, presented the most specific and detailed proposals for treaties.

Of course, at this moment the method being followed is one that is quite different. No country is being asked to make proposals for treaties because that phase has already ended. It ended after the Document of Objectives was signed -- between September and December 1983. It was at that time that Contadora asked us to present our proposals. When we met in Washington at the time of the OAS General Assembly meeting, the Contadora foreign ministers said that their work was becoming difficult because only one country had presented proposals on how to carry out what had been agreed on in the Document of Objectives. Despite the fact that Contadora asked everyone to present a proposal, Nicaragua was the only country that has done so. All this demonstrates that Nicaragua is not what the United States says it is and that Nicaragua is not what those who echo the United States say it is.

The Contradora Group foreign ministers, the four ministers who met in Panama City on 8 April, released a communique clearly stating who is hindering Contadora's negotiating process. They said that the United States, with its extended maneuvers, mining of ports, and the large funds allotted for their mercenaries directed by the CIA... [does not complete thought]. Obviously, those countries that are no longer capable of deciding their own policies, as is evidently the case with Honduras -- but not the only case -- cannot play a very positive role in the Contadora process, because the United States does not allow them to, because the United States is set on demonstrating that the negotiations are useless.

Fred Ikle, the architect of Reagan's policy for Central America, and Nicaragua in particular, has repeatedly said that negotiations will not resolve the Central American situation and that the revolutionary forces must be defeated. We see then that they are set on proving that this idea is correct, and they are using every means available to sabotage the Contadora negotiating process.

[Question indistinct]

[D'Escoto -- in English] What is our reaction to that recent revelation? Is that your question? Well, we have said it all the time, we have known it, and this is the only time to confirm that we were right in saying that in this type of sophisticated actions of sabotage and accurate bombing cannot be done by anyone else than the Central Intelligence Agency. [sentence as heard] The United States at that time denied categorically that they were doing that. Some officials said that it was not their policy to comment on the actions of the intelligence organization, but posteriorly their position has been to deny that they are so doing and we have always said that they were responsible for destruction of the oil dumps in Corinto, for the air raids, and for the minings. Now you have had the opportunity to see who was telling the truth and who was lying. Once again, as always, the Reagan administration is caught lying, and now, because of contradiction that has developed within the United States itself, some of them are coming to public knowledge. [end English]

[Question indistinct]

[D'Escoto -- in English] I think that if Congress denies, as I hope and pray that it will because it clearly is against international law, because it is clearly a crime, what is being done against the people of Nicaragua, and because it also clearly does not serve the (?expectations) of anyone, not even the United States, and I hope they deny that. But then I would have to hope also that Mr Reagan chooses to abide by such a resolution. I hope he does, and I hope he doesn't try to circumvent that decision of Congress by going to third parties to obtain what he could not obtain through Congress. That is to say, other countries. If all of this happens, and Mr Reagan decides to comply with the law, international and national, then I foresee, obviously, a lessening of tension. [end English]

[Question] I am going to drift from the subject of Costa Rica. A high-ranking delegation of the French Government is currently visiting Nicaragua. The delegation is headed by Regis Debray, and they have already met with you. We would like to know what you talked about and what France has offered Nicaragua?

[D'Escoto] Well, as is customary, this kind of a meeting is held to get an update on what is happening in the two countries and to talk about bilateral relations. It is a delegation from a friendly country, a country in solidarity. We spoke in a very open manner and at length regarding the situation in Nicaragua and Central America, and we clearly expressed our opinion on how this can be overcome. We also expressed our concern about the stubbornness demonstrated by the U.S. Government, which not only refuses to accept the Sandinist People's revolution as an irreversible fact but also is set on going ahead with its state terrorism. It is very overt, we are not the first or only ones to describe Washington's policy in this manner. At this moment, members of the U.S. Congress and Senate are doing the same, and they have said that if they felt that this policy was morally good in the past, they are now very clear in seeing that it is not. This is what we have spoken about with the friends from France who are visiting us.

[Question] I would like an evaluation of the latest Contadora Group meeting and the future steps you are planning for peace in Central America?

[D'Escoto] The latest Contadora Group meeting was mostly an informative meeting during which the nine foreign ministers received information on the advances achieved to date by the three commissions -- the security, political, and economic and social commissions. They have not achieved as much as I would like, but more than I thought they would, despite a document issued when the commissions were still meeting which is difficult to understand, not only for Nicaragua but also for the four Contadora foreign ministers. This document could have caused more problems if they had insisted on taking it seriously. Now the Contadora deputy foreign ministers, those who participated in the technical group, are ordering all ideas, points, and documents approved, and they are planning a visit to the five Central American countries, where they will meet with the chiefs of state to present the document in a clearer and more orderly manner.

LISBON CONFERENCE ISSUES FINAL DECLARATION

PA071742 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 May 84

[Excerpts] The International Conference on Nicaragua and for Peace in Central America has declared 19 July 1984, fifth anniversary of the triumph of the Sandinist Popular Revolution, as the international day of solidarity with the people and the Government of Nicaragua. The conference, which ended yesterday in Lisbon, Protugal, condemned the use of Honduran territory by U.S. military forces and counterrevolutionary mercenaries to attack Nicaragura. The international conference concluded that the CIA mining of Nicaraguan harbors was criminal and urged Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge to maintain the neutrality that he declared and to prevent the territory of Costa Rica from being used to attack the Nicaraguan people and Government.

Jorge Alexander, from Lisbon's Radiodifusao Portuguesa, [RDP] has more details on the final declaration of the International Conference on Nicaragua and for Peace in Central America in a special report for Radio Sandino.

[Alexander] The final declaration deplored the stand that the United States currently holds in regard to the ruling of the International Court of Justice in the Hague, which is the highest authority on international law. Washington has decided to not accept any ruling of this court pertaining to Nicaragua for a period of 2 years. The conference [words indistinct] Honduran territory for acts of aggression against Nicaragua and the Salvadoran [word indistinct].

The participants stressed that a U.S. invasion in Nicaragua and an escalation of intervention in El Salvador are an imminent danger to world peace.

The conference energetically condemned the U.S. invasion in Grenada as well as the U.S. stated intention of reinforcing the [word indistinct] of occupation in that country.

The final declaration states that the members of the conference support the Nicaraguan Government's efforts to find a political solution to the Central American conflict and proposed that 19 July, the anniversary of the fall of Anastasio Somoza, be declared an international day of solidarity with the Nicaraguan people.

U.S. Aggression Denounced

PA050312 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 May 84

[Text] Lisbon, Portugal -- The aggression against Nicaragua and the mining of its ports are acts of international terrorism being used by the United States against the sovereignty of that Central American country and cannot be permitted as they are an aggression against the entire Latin American Continent. This was said by 1980 Nobel Peace Prize winner Adolfo Perez Esquivel of Argentina in the opening ceremony here yesterday of the International Conference on Nicaragua and Peace in Central America. Perez Esquivel asked for worldwide solidarity with the struggle of the Central American peoples and condemned the repression of the Salvadoran people as well as the genocide against the Indian community in Guatemala, promoted by the U.S. Administration headed by Ronald Reagan.

The participants at the conference gave a standing ovation to the delegations of Cuba and Nicaragua, headed by Faustino Perez and Julio Lopez respectively, and the representatives of the FMLN headed by Margarita Gonzalez. Also attending the conference are Nguyen Thi Binh of Vietnam, Hortensia Bussi de Allende, and other Latin American delegations.

Meanwhile, Nicaraguan Guerrilla Commander Monica Baltodano, also attending the conference, said that for the past few years Nicaragua has faced an unequal war of intervention imposed by U.S. imperialism. She said that the current U.S. Administration headed by Ronald Reagan is engaged in a harmful aggressive policy against Central America, intervening in El Salvador, and economically and militarily attacking Nicaragua.

The mining of the Nicaraguan ports by the CIA was described as an open and shameless violation of international law. Commander Baltodano said that so far this year the United States has violated Nicaraguan airspace 300 times and that the aggression against this Central American nation has already cost the Reagan administration $200 million.

NONALIGNED DELEGATIONS ARRIVE IN MANAGUA

PA072016 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] The delegations that will participate in the Third Conference of Labor Ministers of Nonaligned Countries to be held from 10 to 12 May in Managua began to arrive in our country today. Representatives of Iraq, Malta, Yugoslavia, and Laos arrived in Managua today to participate in this conference. The countries coordinating the event will hold a preliminary meeting from 8 to 10 May. So far, 43 countries have confirmed their attendance. The meeting will be held at the Cesar Augusto Silva Conventions Center.

Cuban Official Arrives

PA071955 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Hector Martinez Brito, Cuba's deputy minister for labor appeals, arrived in Managua this weekend. He is here to take part in a meeting to prepare the third conference of labor ministers of the nonaligned countries, which will take place in Managua from 10-12 May.

The delegates of the countries that are in charge of coordinating the event will meet in Managua tomorrow to agree on the agenda for the conference.

The topics of the conference are: the evaluation of the previous conferences that were held in Tunisia and Baghdad, as well as of the seventh summit conference in New Delhi; the cooperation of the nonaligned countries in the field of professional training, and the development of human resources in the industrial and rural sectors.

During the conference, Nicaragua will present a document on the participation and coordination of the nonaligned countries in the ILO.

GUATEMALAN ECONOMIC DELEGATION VISITS MANAGUA

PA040437 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 3 May 84

[Excerpt] Guatemalan Economy Minister Leonel Hernandez met at noon today with Alejandro Martinez Cuenca, Nicaraguan Foreign Trade Minister. Hernandez is heading a Guatemalan economic delegation visiting Nicaragua.

BRIEFS

HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE -- From 22 to 26 May the City of Managua will host the fifth assembly of the Central American Human Rights Commission. At the meeting, Nicaragua will present a 90-minute report on human rights in our country. The Nicaraguan report will include the struggle to protect human rights despite the U.S. aggression experienced by our people and the peoples of Central America. [Summary] [Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 3 May 84 PA]

TECHNICAL ENERGY INSTITUTE -- Rafael Cordova Rivas, member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, has dedicated the Simon Bolivar National Institute of Technical Energy [Instituto Nacional Tecnico Energetico Simon Bolivar]. The institute will produce middle-level technicians, thereby contributing to the country's technological development. The new educational center is located on Km 8 of the Northern Highway. Soviet Ambassador German Shlyapnikov said at the ceremony that the institute was built with technical cooperation and assistance from the Soviet Union. [Summary] [Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 30 Apr 84 pp 1, 10 PA]

DELEGATION TO EUROPE -- A Nicaraguan delegation headed by Leonel Arguello, member of the Supreme Electoral Council, and composed of Pedro Antonio Blandon, director of the International Reconstruction Fund, FIR; and Dr Sergio Lacayo left for Western Europe this morning. The delegation will visit Sweden, Norway, Finland, the Netherlands, the FRG, and Italy to report on the Nicaraguan electoral process currently under way and to seek technical assistance for the elections. [Summary] [Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 4 May 84 PA]

FURTHER ON CASTRO MESSAGE TO LISBON CONFERENCE

FL051946 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 May 84

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has sent a message to participants in the International Conference on Nicaragua and for Peace in Central America, which is taking place in the Portuguese capital. In his message to the conference, Fidel stated: The Latin American and Caribbean peoples have never experienced such a dangerous time in their entire history. He added that the current U.S. Administration, allied with the tyrannical and oligarchical regimes of the region, has assumed the role of gendarme and created an atmosphere of the threat of military occupation, intervention, aggression, and war.

Later, Fidel pointed out that the Reagan administration is attempting to smother the struggle of the peoples of Central America with the help of military means and CIA agents. He remarked that the situation in the region has become increasingly dangerous because of growing interference by the United States in the internal affairs of El Salvador. Fidel added that the White House underestimates the proposals of Nicaragua and of the Salvadoran patriots for a peaceful settlement. Finally, the commander in chief said in his message to the International Conference on Nicaragua and for Peace in Central America that in contrast to the peace initiatives in the area, the U.S. Administration is becoming more aggressive and is increasing its threats against Cuba.

CASTRO PRESIDES OVER ANNIVERSARY OF OFFICE

FL050200 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 5 May 84

[Text] Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, today presided over the ceremony commemorating the 20th anniversary of the foundation of the Office of Historical Affairs of the Council of State. Also present were other members of the Politburo and the Central Committee.

The Office of Historical Affairs of the Council of State was founded by our dear and unforgettable Celia Sanchez Manduley 20 years ago. Born of the persistent energy and farsighted sensitivity of the indomitable Comrade Celia, this office was the culmination of a tenacious effort begun and maintained by her under the difficult conditions of guerrilla struggle in the Sierra Maestra Mountains. The office was destined to preserve the documents of the insurrection. The above was included in a letter signed by Fidel and read by Armando Hart, member of the Politburo. The letter emphasized the work carried out under Celia's orders during these 20 years, and the high mission of safeguarding for future generations of the fatherland a precious historical treasure.

At the ceremony, the Enrique Hart Award was presented to the four founding members and awards were presented to workers with over 10 years of service in the office. The closing statement of the ceremony was made by Jesus Montane, alternate member of the Politburo.

CASTRO AT MEETING HONORING MEDICAL PROFESSORS

FL071856 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1102 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz attended the meeting that delegates to the National Conference of Students of Medical Sciences held to honor their professors. The meeting was held in the Otto Parrellada Workers Social Circle [Circulo Social Obrero], Ministry of Public Health, and was a brilliant climax to the event in which the students ratified their decision to assist in making Cuba into a world medical power.

At the meeting, a letter was given to the professors that stressed the fact that both students and teachers will place science at the service of mankind, forging -- on the way to a higher sensibility -- a medical generation of which the Cuban people can be proud. The commander in chief conversed with the delegates to the meeting.

4-SHIP SOVIET NAVAL DETACHMENT ENDS VISIT

PA080019 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2248 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Havana, 7 May (EFE) -- The Soviet Navy fleet that had been anchored off the Cuban coasts since 26 March on an "official, friendly" visit has ended its stay at the island. The fleet, made up of the antisubmarine cruiser Leningrad, the antisubmarine vessel Udaloy, a diesel submarine and a tanker, trained the Cuban Navy for 1 and 1/2 months.

Vice Admiral Fedor Starozhilov, chief of the Soviet naval detachment, said that "an exchange of working experiences in various areas was carried out" during his stay in Havana. Starozhilov said that cooperation "included technical and maritime training of personnel, combat training, and party activities, with joint activities to complete tasks similar to those usually carried out by those ships to ensure peace and the defense of socialist gains."

Admiral Pedro Perera Ruiz, chief of staff of the Cuban Navy, said that "the activities carried out jointly with the Soviet naval detachment were not designed as a response to the 'Ocean Venture-84' maneuvers being carried out by U.S. units in the Caribbean." The Soviet fleet's visit to Cuba "was coordinated prior to our knowledge of the date of those manuevers, which took place at the same time by coincidence," Perera said. The Cuban admiral said that "if there had to be a response of this kind to every U.S. maneuver in Central America and the Caribbean, a Soviet detachment would have to be in Cuba permanently."

Perera Ruiz emphasized that "it is a matter of taking advantage of the visit to carry out activities as part of the supportive aid that the USSR, in this case the Soviet Navy, has always given us to reinforce our combat capacity and readiness."

The chief of the Soviet detachment said that "the date of this visit was arranged in January-February of this year."

U.S. OBSTRUCTION OF CONTADORA EFFORTS CITED

PA071625 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 May 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] A few days ago the U.S. House of Representatives approved a resolution supporting the efforts being made by the Contadora Grup to secure a peaceful solution to the Central American conflict. The resolution states that President Ronald Reagan also supports the Contadora Group. Congressman Theodore Weiss has stated in this regard: It would be great if we could consider such a statement sincere.

Washington has expressed its support for the Contadora Group, but this support has been only verbal. In practice, the U.S. policy is in open contradiction with the spirit of the negotiations taking place to secure a peaceful solution to the conflict in Central America.

The United States is the party most responsible for the grave situation that prevails in the area. It is U.S. support that permits the Salvadoran regime to remain in power.

It is a known fact that the counterrevolutionary groups carrying out criminal attacks on Nicaragua are being financed, armed, and trained by Washington, that Honduras has been practically invaded by U.S. troops, and that other countries of the region are being pressured into serving U.S. interests.

At almost the same moment that the U.S. House of Representatives was approving the resolution supporting the Contadora Group, the Nicaraguan Government was sending a protest note to Washington holding the U.S. authorities responsible for the attack carried out by two armed boats against the military post in Port Potosi, in the Gulf of Fonseca. The Nicaraguan document explains that the two boats that carried out the attack operated from a mother ship belonging to the CIA. The document demands an immediate end to these activities.

Commander Jaime Wheelock, member of the FSLN National Directorate, referred to these events during the International Labor Day celebrations in the city of Chinandega. He charged that the counterrevolutionary bands attacking Nicaragua from Honduras and Costa Rica are beachheads of the U.S. intervention. He characterized the policy of the United States -- which has been combining military maneuvers with internal operations to destabilize Nicaragua -- as evil. The U.S. Government has no alternative other than the military one to try to crush the Sandinist revolution, because it knows that there will be no internal treason, the Nicaraguan leader stated.

A few days ago El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica issued a joint statement aimed at obstructing the good path of negotiations being promoted by the Contadora Group. Nicaragua categorically rejected the declaration's proposals on subjects that the Contadora Group is discussing behind closed doors. Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto charged that Nicaragua is a country enduring an aggression and that the aggressor is the United States, which is using El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica, the countries which issued the statement.

It is so contradictory to state that Ronald Reagan supports the Contadora Group's efforts that even allies of the imperialists are confused. The Brazilian Government recently sent a delegation to Washington to learn exactly what the U.S. intentions toward the peace proposals for Central America are and what the final objective of the U.S. troops that have been sent to the region is.

PERUVIAN DEPUTY CRITICIZES U.S. C.A. POLICY

PA072348 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Peruvian Deputy Javier Diaz Canseco has said in Montreal that there is concern in his country about the interventionist U.S. policy in Central America. Diaz Canseco criticized Washington's support for the counterrevolutionary groups that stage attacks on the Sandinist government from foreign bases, adding that these actions deserve unanimous condemnation from the international community.

He described the role played by Honduras in the aggression against Nicaragua as very worrisome and criticized the attitude of reactionary sectors in Costa Rica that fully support these activities.

The Peruvian deputy indicated that legislators in his country are pressuring Lima's delegate at the UN Security Council to take steps to obtain that international organization's intervention to stop the North American warmongering maneuvers.

REAGAN ASKS CHINESE TO AID KAMPUCHEAN REBELS

FL072338 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] President Reagan has requested that his Chinese hosts increase their aid to the counterrevolutionary groups that are attacking Kampuchea from Thailand. This request, made by Reagan during his recent visit to China, was confirmed today in Bangkok, the capital of Thailand, by Paul Wolfowitz, assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs.

'ELECTORAL FARCE' IN EL SALVADOR NOTED

Guerrillas Hamper Voting

PA071248 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Amidst intensive military mobilization, the second round of the electoral farce sponsored by the United States was carried out in El Salvador today, with Christian Democrat Jose Napoleon Duarte and Roberto D'Aubuisson, leader of the Nationalist Republican Alliance, participating as candidates. Some 1 million of the 2.6 million eligible voters did not participate in the elections, because they are in areas occupied by FMLN fighters, or because they have no documents because of internal displacement. The FMLN called on the people to refrain from participating in the electoral farce organized by the United States and warned of a possible U.S. intervention after the elections.

Today, Sunday, FMLN guerrilla units attacked the city of San Miguel, the country's third most important city, 140 km east of the capital. Radio Venceremos, voice of the FMLN, said that the patriots were obliged to engage in heavy fighting with Army units, which sustained five casualties. The guerrilla actions forced the military to use tanks to transport ballots and ballot boxes for the electoral farce carried out today in San Salvador. This delayed the opening of the runoff presidential elections in San Miguel.

Radio Venceremos added that the guerrillas are still occupying positions on the outskirts of the city, and it warned people throughout San Miguel Department to avoid using the eastern roads in El Salvador, since these roads have been mined by rebel detachments. Salvadoran Army spokesmen have admitted that the guerrillas attacked San Miguel, although they minimized the casualties sustained by government forces. Nevertheless, they admitted that two policemen were killed while attempting to deactivate one of the many mines that the guerrillas have placed along the highways in eastern El Salvador.

It was also learned that the insurgents waged other battles in the Departments of Usulutan, La Union, and San Vicente, with as yet unknown results.

Apathy Marks Duarte Win

PA080322 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Apathetic, skeptical, and indifferent are adjectives being used by the press and various observers to describe the second round of presidential elections held yesterday in El Salvador. According to unofficial sources, Christian Democratic Party [PDC] candidate Jose Napoleon Duarte won over Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA] leader Roberto D'Aubuisson. Results provided by the PDC show that with 65 percent of the votes counted Duarte received 585,000 votes, while D'Aubuisson received 462,000.

The voting took place amid an intense military presence, while Radio Venceremos, the voice of the Salvadoran insurgents, reported that the electoral farce did not take place in 54 municipalities in the Departments of Morazan, La Union, Usulutan, and San Miguel, because they remain under FMLN control.

In Lima, Socialist International Vice President Anselmo Sule described yesterday's U.S.-sponsored election in El Salvador as a mockery of true elections. Sule added: This election has absolutely no significance in terms of the effort to resolve the Salvadoran crisis, because sectors that are representative of the Salvadoran people, the FMLN and the FDR, are not taking part.

Venceremos Cited

FL071530 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] El Salvador's U.S. supported second round of farcical elections was marked by heavy fighting in various locations, wide deployment of repressive forces, and overflights of the principal cities by artillery-carrying helicopters. The major confrontations took place in the City of San Miguel, locations near Chinchontepec volcano, and in San Sebastian. The press said that the repressive forces' display was greater than during the first round of elections and that this kept people from voting in 50 of the 261 electoral districts. Press reports also said that Christian Democrat candidate Jose Napoleon Duarte was the virtual winner in the elections.

Guerrilla radio station Venceremos commented on the elections saying that this farce's goal was to impose Napoleon Duarte as president so that he could call on the interventionist troops. Radio Venceremos also pointed out that the FMLN could not remain indifferent to this political event, behind which hides imperialism's armed aggression and the continuation of genocide.

Elections To Justify More Aid

FL072356 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] The United States is manipulating yesterday's elections in El Salvador to accelerate its intervention in Central America, observers in Washington have confirmed. President Reagan proposes to use the already-announced victory of Christian Democrat Napoleon Duarte to convince Congress to approve additional multimillion-dollar-aid grants to the Salvadoran Army.

GUATEMALAN LABOR LEADER REPORTS 26 KILLED

PA071254 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 6 May 84

[Text] Miguel Angel Solis, leader of the National Committee of Labor Unity of Guatemala, has reported that 26 members of the workers' movement have been killed in that country over the past few months. He said that despite the Guatemalan regime's repression, the workers are maintaining a tenacious struggle in defense of their rights. Solis added that the labor union's struggle is basically aimed at ending repression and achieving respect for its leaders' lives. In addition, bold efforts are being made to determine the whereabouts of abducted labor leaders and to achieve the free operation of labor organizations.

After stressing that the Guatemalan people must face a high cost of living and ever-decreasing real wages, as well as a lack of medical services, illiteracy, and other social evils, Solis said that this calamitous picture explains why the workers unceasingly continue their struggle, despite living under a difficult, repressive situation in Guatemala.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN ECUADOR NOTED

PA071547 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 6 May 84

[Text] The second round of elections to elect the new Ecuadoran president between Social Democrat Rodrigo Borja and Social Christian Leon Febres began early today. A total of 13,000 voting polls opened their doors at 0700 local time, and preliminary results are expected to be known tonight.

According to press agencies, only about 1.5 million of the 3.5 million voters are members of a political party, and 28 percent of the voters, particularly in rural areas, are illiterate.

According to observers, Social Democratic candidate Rodrigo Borja is the favored candidate. Borja received more votes than Febres in the first round of elections and this time has the support of the Democratic left and six other organizations.

Febres Declared Winner

PA080342 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Leon Febres Cordero, candidate for the rightist National Reconstruction Front, defeated his opponent, Social Democrat Rodrigo Borja, in the runoff elections that were held yesterday in Ecuador, according to preliminary reports released in Quito, the capital. The latest report, released last night by the electoral information system, indicates that with 1,800,000 votes tallied, Febres has 50 percent and Borja approximately 48 percent of votes cast.

In the first round, held on 29 January, Borja led Febres by over 30,000 votes. The official data for the second round was announced a few days later by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal.

During an interview granted last night to the national radio network, Febres Cordero said that his government will be a government of unity of all Ecuadoreans, because this unity is indispensable in extricating the country from its economic crisis. He asserted that he will maintain relations with all of the world's nations but will not allow any interference in Ecuador's internal affairs.

'MOURNING' IN SANTO DOMINGO FOR 'REPRESSION'

PA051401 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Black ribbons and pieces of cloth today hung from doors and windows as a sign of mourning in Santo Domingo, capital of the Dominican Republic, which was paralyzed Tuesday in protest for the brutal repression that left 200 dead last week, as well as hundreds of wounded and thousands of detainees from among the demonstrators against the government's economic policy.

Dominican labor federations asked people to stay at home after it was decided yesterday to suspend a rally on the occasion of International Labor Day, to prevent new repressive actions by President Salvador Jorge Blanco's government. Labor organizations remarked that the suspension of the 1 May rallies does not mean that they will relinquish their demands that include a breaking of the agreement between the Dominican Government and the IMF, a salary raise, and a reduction in basic products prices.

It has been reported that armed police and Army members continue patrolling the capital's northern area. Yesterday, the Dominican Armed Forces occupied the offices of the main labor federations and took up strategic positions in Santo Domingo where, according to observers, there is a virtual state of siege.

SECRET POLICE ARREST OPPOSITION PARTY LEADERS

PA072031 Paris AFP in Spanish 1931 GMT 7 May 84

[Text] Santo Domingo, 7 May (AFP) -- It was reported today in Santo Domingo that some 100 opposition party leaders have been arrested in the past 24 hours.

According to Dominican radio stations, newspapers, and political parties, one of the arrested persons is Lido Cadet, secretary general of the Dominican Liberation Party (PLD, of the nationalist left). Cadet was arrested in the city of Higuey (145 km east of Santo Domingo) together with three other leaders of his party. In the same city of Higuey, more than 50 leaders of the Independent Peasant Movement were arrested as they were holding a meeting.

Rafael Taveras, of the Front of the Dominican Left (FID, affiliated with the Communist Party), was arrested at his home in this capital. In Santiago, the country's second largest city, the (conservative) Reformist Party (PR), which is the most important opposition party, has denounced the arrest of Deputy Luis Dominguez and other leaders. In Bonao, 85 km north of Santo Domingo, and in Barahona, 200 km south of this capital, labor and peasant leaders have been arrested.

According to sources, it was secret service agents of the National Police who carried out all these arrests, but the police have not officially revealed the reasons for the arrests. Political and news sources have said that this is a preventive operation in the face of possible new protest demonstrations in the next few days against the high cost of living and an agreement with the IMF.

As a result of the demonstrations that took place 2 weeks ago, more than 50 persons died and almost 200 were wounded by bullets. The government blamed the PR, the PLD, and the left for these "destabilizing" demonstrations.

The labor unions, which are heading the popular protests, have announced that there will be a national strike, but denied that this is to take place today, as rumors had it. The Senate approved a bill last Saturday increasing the minimum salary from 125 to 175 pesos ($70 in the free currency exchange), as well as other low salaries. Labor unions characterized these increases as insufficient.

The government has been trying this week to put a halt to exorbitant price increases on staples and to make food and medicine available to the lowest-income sectors at subsidized prices.

The authorities are still negotiating the terms of a letter of intent with an IMF mission that has been in Santo Domingo for the past 13 days. According to sources close to these negotiations, there are still some points of disagreement, which will delay the implementation of a definite economic program.

BOSCH ON EVENTS, PRESIDENT JORGE'S ACTIONS

FL051722 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 29 Apr 84 pp 1, 14

[By Mirtilio Feliz Pena]

[Excerpt] Las Americas Airport -- Former President Juan Bosch last night said that President Salvador Jorge Blanco's speech on the tragic events of the week was "not well received by Dominicans" because the president forgot or decided not to mention the victims of the tragedy.

Bosch, president of the Dominican Liberation Party [PLD] said that "the people, using very good judgement, believed the victims were the most important part of the events, and Dr Jorge Blanco indicated that he did not seem worried about what had happened to them."

Bosch returned last night to the Dominican Republic after spending several days in Havana, Cuba, where he participated in a Caribbean history and sociology conference.

Bosch said the president had not mentioned those who were killed or wounded in street disturbances as they protested increases in basic foods prices because it was he (Jorge Blanco) "who gave the order to treat the people as enemy soldiers on a battlefield."

"I say this because I am sure the military would not have acted the way it did if it had received orders from the president not to hurt or kill anyone. If they (the police and military) wounded and killed people, it was because their commander in chief ordered them to do so. And, according to the Dominican Constitution, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces and the National Police is the president of the Republic," said Bosch.

GOVERNMENT CLOSES TV, 2 RADIO STATIONS

FL042120 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 25 Apr 84 p 5

[By Manuel Volquez and Arsenio Ramirez]

[Excerpts] The director general of Telecommunications last night reported on the closing of Radio Popular and La Voz del Tropico radio stations and Tele-Inde Channel 13 television station, which, according to the official, had violated the broadcasting law.

Mr Miguel Peguero Calzada said that his department took into account violations of Article 110 of Law 118 of 1 February 1966 when it closed the two radio stations and the television station. The alleged violations were committed yesterday and today (Monday and Tuesday). Technically, Telecommunications "suspended their operation, arranging for their closing."

The general management of Telecommunications ordered that Radio Popular be put under military control, charging it was disturbing the peace. Radio Popular, before it was closed, had kept the public informed on incidents in the streets in various parts of the capital city, but authorities thought that the station's bulletins disturbed the tranquillityof the citizens.

The news chief of Radio Popular, Jose Sierra, said: "We are surprised by the measure." He pointed out that at the time it was closed, "Radio Popular was fulfilling a serious reporting job for the country and the world." He said that the international news agencies reported the Dominican situation to the world using Radio Popular as a source.

PLD Condemns Action

FL051557 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 29 Apr 84 p 4

[Excerpts] The Dominican Liberation Party [PLD] has described the closing of Popular, La Voz del Tropico [Voice of the Tropics] radio stations and TV channel 13 as "unjustified." The PLD said that there was no reason for the General Directorate of Telecommunications to act as if the country was not regulated by laws. It added that "closing so many radio and TV stations and intimidating others is a condemnable excess, and it is not the best government contribution to tranquillity for the Dominican people."

FRANCE BANS REVOLUTIONARY CARIBBEAN ALLIANCE

FL041516 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 4 May 84

[Text] The French Government has banned the separatist Revolutionary Caribbean Alliance for its recent attack on French possessions in the Caribbean. The group has claimed responsibility for a series of bombings in Martinique, Guadeloupe, and French Guiana in its campaign to gain independence for the areas. The French Government spokesman says that the group was banned because of its intent to harm the integrity of the French national territories.

HAITI

SUSPECTED PLOTTERS AGAINST PRESIDENT ARRESTED

FL051910 Bridgetown CANA in English 1848 GMT 5 May 84

[Text] Pointe-a-Pitre, Guadeloupe, May 5 (CANA-REUTER) -- Police in St Martin, a French Caribbean possession, have arrested 37 people suspected of plotting to overthrow Haitian President Jean-Claude Duvalier, police sources said today. The group, inlcuding residents of Guadeloupe, North and South Americans, and Haitians, were seized while setting up a training camp, the sources said. Duvalier succeeded his father Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier as president-for-life when he died in 1971.

St Martin, occupying the northern part of a tiny island whose southern part, St Maarten, belongs to the Dutch Antilles, is part of France's Guadeloupe group of islands. It is about 550 miles (900 km) east of French-speaking Haiti, which occupies the western part of the large island whose eastern part is the Spanish-speaking Dominican Republic.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

GOVERNMENT TEAM TO VISIT GRENADA TO ASSESS AID

FL051410 Bridgetown CANA in English 1156 GMT 5 May 84

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, May 5 (CANA) -- The Trinidad and Tobago Government today announced a 13-member non-partisan aid mission, headed by retired high court judge Ulric Cross, to visit Grenada to assess ways in which Port of Spain can assist the neighbouring island nation. Leader of government business in the House of Representatives, Agriculture Minister Kamaluddin Mohammed, will lead the team which includes six parliamentarians from both the ruling party and opposition as well as officials from the private sector, the church, and national organisations, grouping women and youth.

The decision to send the team to St George's was taken by Prime Minister George Chambers after consultation with opposition leader Basdeo Panday. Grenada is recovering from widespread economic disruption in the wake of a bloody political crisis last October.

The parliamentarians are government backbencher Sham Mohammed and Senator Rudolph Hypolite, opposition chief whip Nizam Mohammed and Senator Dr Sahadeo Basdeo, as well as independent Senators Louise Horne and Olive Sawyer.

Mohammed did not announce when the team will leave for Grenada. Arrangements are to be made for the Barbados-based Trinidad and Tobago high commissioner to eastern Caribbean to go along with the team, Mohammed added.

PRESIDENT SENDS CONGRATULATORY NOTE TO CHERNENKO

FL051520 Bridgetown CANA in English 1447 GMT 5 May 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, May 5 (CANA) -- Guyana President Forbes Burnham has sent a cable to Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko congratulaing him on his election to the post of Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

GOVERNMENT ACCUSED OF RESTRICTING RELIGION

FL071710 Bridgetown CANA in English 1946 GMT 5 May 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, May 5 (CANA) -- Roman Catholic Bishop Benedict Singh accused the Guyana Government of misusing its power to restrict religious freedom.

Bishop Singh protested to the Government over the alleged refusal to grant permission for two priests to visit Roman Catholics in the Rupununi and conduct church services during the Easter season. He spoke of "renewed harassment" of church personnel, and said no reason has been given for the action by authorities. "In each case, the requests to travel were refused at the last possible moment so that people in the interior suffered maximum inconvenience. "I protest against this misuse of power to restrict religious freedom as in the previous cases of oppression of this sort; it is the Catholics who live in the Rupununi who suffer most," Singh said.

The Roman Catholic Church here has emerged as a major critic of the administration of President Forbes Burnham.

CATHOLIC NEWSPAPER WARNS OF UNREST, DISCONTENT

FL072015 Bridgetown CANA in English 1525 GMT 6 May 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, May 6 (CANA) -- A warning that Guyana's "uneasy peace" may erupt into widespread violence if the government does not meet the employment, health, election, and other needs of the people has been made by the CATHOLIC STANDARD, a newspaper published by the Roman Catholic Church here.

In an editorial, the paper said there was no violent confrontation between governments and opposition forces and Guyana could be described as relatively peaceful. "Yet, despite all this, one is aware of a simmering discontent," the paper added. "The general population is discontented about rising prices, frozen wages, and increasing unemployment. Parents are unhappy about the declining standards of health and education."

The STANDARD said the emasculation of trade unions by a labour amendment bill had further "angered and frustrated" the workers, adding that the growing crime rate was a further cause of concern to Guyanese. The weekly paper also said the "people exploit and damage each other to an increasing degree in business and social dealings, and dishonestly seems to be the order of the day."